

Hafa Adai!

AG Manibusan fights to protect airline customers. PAGE 2
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Yeom: CCC needs to monitor IPI's auctioned gaming assets

» Adds first auction may take place several weeks at the very least

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER



Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, eighth right in the second row, heads a delegation from the Northern Marianas in welcoming representatives of the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo, the Japan Association of Travel Agents, and consumer and travel trade media outlets to a reception on Aug. 31, 2022, in Tokyo, marking the launch of direct flights between Narita and Saipan on Sept. 1, 2022, by United Airlines.

United, MVA, travel partners toast inaugural flight

With the commencement of direct flights between Japan and the Northern Marianas yesterday, the Marianas Visitors Authority, United Airlines, and other travel partners are celebrating the inaugural flight with ceremonies in Tokyo, Japan.

A reception was held last Wednesday, Aug. 31, at ANA Intercontinental Hotel Tokyo with 40 travel trade partners, including Deputy Senior Commercial Officer Steve Knode of the

See UNITED on Page 4

Commonwealth Casino Commission executive director Andrew Yeom said yesterday that Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) Inc.'s gaming assets that will be auctioned need to be documented by CCC to monitor where these items are going.

In response to *Saipan Tribune*'s inquiry, Yeom said movement of any See YEOM on Page 4

Labor Day 2022 has new significance as we honor all services workers

TOGETHER, WE CAN

By GOV. RALPH DLG TORRES
Special to the Saipan Tribune



Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is the ninth governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers co-chairman.

As we celebrate Labor Day 2022 this Sept. 5, I'd like for us to reflect on the challenges we have overcome and the hardships that workers around the world encountered throughout the most difficult two years in recent history. We saw economies shut down, schools close,

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CIP MEETING

Members from the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents' Facilities Committee, chaired by Regent Michelle Sablan, recently met with NMC president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero and other NMC staff to discuss ongoing capital improvement projects. Patrick Guerrero, the governor's authorized representative, was also in attendance to share Federal Emergency Management Agency updates in assisting with the college's Super Typhoon Yutu recovery efforts.

INSIDE



ASIA

China's discriminatory detention of Uyghurs and other mostly Muslim ethnic groups in the western region of Xinjiang may constitute crimes against humanity.

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OFFBEAT

A man who posed as a former Patriots player in order to buy and sell Super Bowl rings that he claimed were gifts to Tom Brady's family was sentenced to three years in federal prison.

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LIFE & STYLE

The return of dragons on the small screen has been a huge hit. Now it's time for the return of the elves and dwarves.

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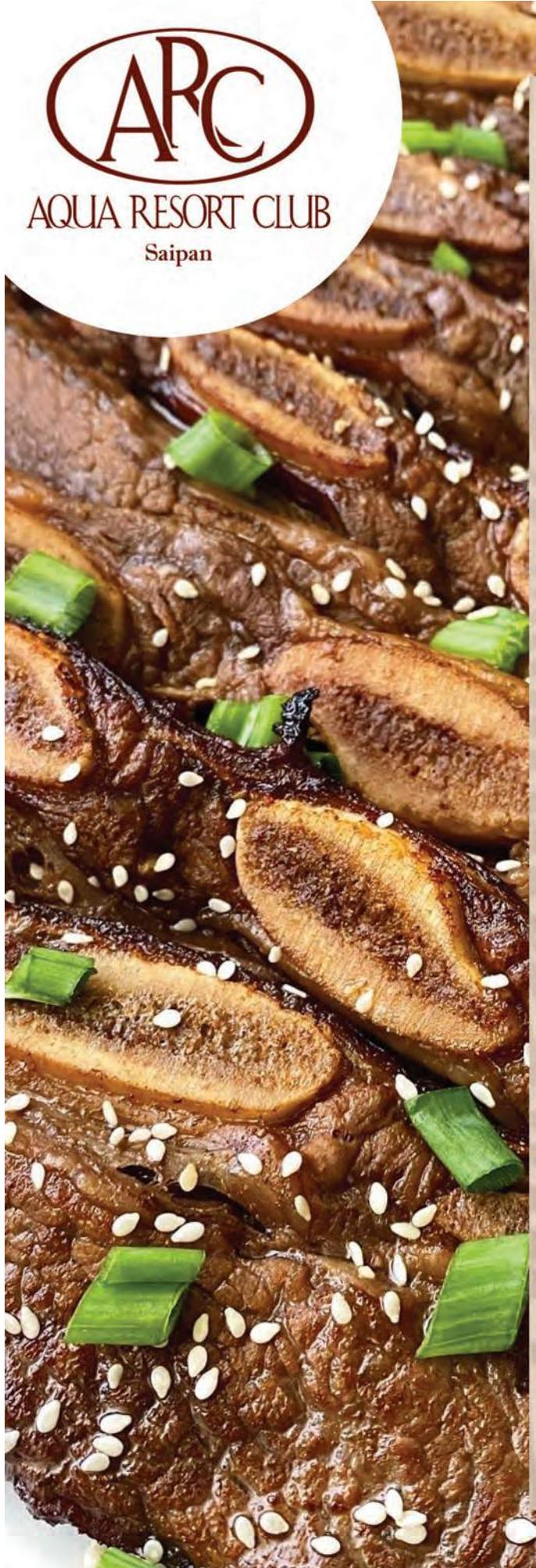


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Costa

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Local

AG fights to protect airline customers

Attorney General Edward Manibusan joined a multi-state coalition in asking U.S. Congress to allow attorneys general to enforce state and federal consumer protections for airline travelers. This request comes after attorneys general received thousands of complaints from outraged passengers, claiming airlines have failed in their service responsibilities, causing significant frustrations and unnecessary challenges.

"Flying is essential for our community to go about their personal and professional lives and the mistreatment of airline consumers requires immediate action from our federal lawmakers. Consumers should have confidence that they will be treated fairly, respectfully, and consistently, under the law, regarding their interactions with the airline industry," said Manibusan.

Federal law currently places the central responsibility for addressing violations of airline consumer protection with the United States Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT), but the agency has not kept up with the escalating issues. State attorneys general have

little to no authority in holding airline companies accountable for unacceptable behavior towards consumers.

Manibusan and the coalition urge Congress to pass legislation that would authorize state attorneys general to enforce both state and federal consumer protection laws governing the airline industry. Their letter encourages Congress to consider shifting the authority for federal investigations of airline patron complaints from the U.S. DOT to an agency more primarily focused on consumer protection, such as the U.S. Department of Justice or the Federal Trade Commission.

Joining Manibusan are the attorneys general of Arizona, Colorado, Alaska, California, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin. (PR)

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Criminal case vs man involved in fatal accident amended to traffic case

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The criminal case against a man charged with manslaughter and homicide by vehicle has been amended and is now a traffic case.

Last Monday, Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja granted the request of the Office of the Attorney General's criminal division to amend the criminal case against Andrei Camacho, 18, to have it docketed in court as a traffic case.

At an arraignment on Monday, Camacho appeared out of custody and was represented by assistant public defender Emily Thomson who, on behalf of her client, entered a not guilty plea to the charges.

After the hearing Naraja scheduled a status conference for Nov. 2 at 10am.

Now that the case is a traffic case, the Naraja reassigned

it to Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

During the hearing, assistant attorney general Steve Kessel appeared for the government and informed the court about the prosecution's intention to prosecute the case as a traffic case.

Camacho is charged with failure to maintain the right side of the highway, speeding, reckless driving, driving under the combination of drugs and alcohol, seatbelt violation, hit and run, failure to report an accident, homicide by vehicle, manslaughter, possession of a controlled substance, and refusal to submit to a blood draw.

Camacho is currently facing charges of manslaughter and homicide by vehicle, among others, for allegedly fleeing the scene of an accident after crashing a Toyota Tacoma that he was driving and leaving three injured minors.

One of the three passen-

gers, a 17-year-old male, was pronounced dead at the hospital while the two other passengers, 16-year-olds, sustained major injuries.

According to court documents, police responded to a reported auto-ran off crash incident in Marpi near Grotto last Aug. 14, at around 12:08am.

At around 12:19am, officer Jasper Manacop arrived at the crash scene and met two male individuals who were later identified as occupants of the crash vehicle.

One of the occupants was complaining he had dislocated

his shoulder in the crash, and the other was complaining of pain. While they were being checked out by medics, the occupants told Manacop that another passenger was trapped in the vehicle further up the street. The occupants identified Camacho as the operator of the crashed vehicle.

Manacop then saw the silver Toyota Tacoma pickup truck that had come to rest in a ditch down the slope of the jungle, with an unconscious male individual in the rear right passenger seat. Medics found that the passenger still inside the truck had no pulse

and was not breathing. Medics noted that he had a fractured face, with a laceration on the back of his head and a pool of blood running down his right arm, which was out of the vehicle.

Medics transported all three occupants to Commonwealth Health Center where the two conscious passengers were treated, and one was pronounced dead on arrival by Dr. Matthew Nelson due to blunt force head trauma.

At around 2:18am, police interviewed the two surviving passengers who stated that all four of them, including

Camacho, had smoked joints of marijuana prior to the crash and they were not using their seatbelts. The two individuals also stated that after the crash, Camacho "disappeared."

Police learned from the occupants that Camacho was operating the truck at a speed of

See CRIMINAL on Next Page

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DFS Cares supports fight against cancer

DFS Group, the world's leading luxury travel retailer, is continuing its commitment to giving back to the community by launching DFS Cares, its first ever local charity campaign on Saipan. While T Galleria by DFS, Saipan has been an avid supporter of local charities for many years, this campaign marks the first time the location invites the local community to participate in fundraising.

DFS Cares aims to raise funds to help support local charities on Saipan. For this year's initial launch, DFS has chosen Commonwealth Cancer Association as its beneficiary. The mission of Commonwealth Cancer Association is to advocate for a cancer free CNMI through early detection, public education and awareness about cancer prevention and screening, and to provide hope and support for cancer patients, survivors, and their families through community partnerships and programs.

"This is the first ever charity campaign for the division. The initiative of this campaign is to continue our commit-

ment to support the community we live and work in and raise funds for a cause that is very close to our hearts," said Rachel Tan, vice president Operations Mid Pacific, DFS Group.

From Sept. 1 to Oct. 31, DFS will leverage its extensive retail network in Saipan to promote cancer awareness, information about Commonwealth Cancer Association and its services, and provide a mechanism for customers and staff to be able to contribute to the charity.

Additionally, there will be special in-store promotions to celebrate the launch of DFS Cares and raise funds. On selected fashion merchandise, for every item purchased under the DFS Cares campaign, DFS will donate \$5 to Commonwealth Cancer Association.

Customers will also have the opportunity to participate in a stamp rally for chances to win exclusive prizes donated by T Galleria by DFS, Saipan, The Shack, and hotel partners including the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Eland Group, and Grandvrio Resort. (PR)

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House passes bill that mandates DPL to review all past, pending claims to own public land

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_deletorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives has passed a bill to mandate the Department of Public Lands to review all past and pending claims to own public land being used for agricultural purposes for a period of 35 years or more, to grant such title to qualified persons.

With 15 representatives present at the House session Monday voting "yes" and only Rep. Roy Ada (R-Saipan) voting "no," House Bill No.

Court grants bail reduction for man accused of attempted rape

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The Superior Court has granted the request to modify bail made by a man accused of attempted rape.

Last Monday, Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley Bogdan granted the bail modification request made by Jones Smith, 41, to reduce his bail and allow him to be released to his siblings as third-party custodians after paying 10-percent of the reduced bail.

Smith's bail was reduced to \$25,000 from \$50,000 and he will be released pending court proceedings

UNITED

From Page 1

U.S. Embassy in Tokyo and other representatives of the U.S. Embassy and the Japan Association of Travel Agents (JATA). The event also included representatives of consumer and travel trade media outlets.

"We have been waiting a long time to welcome back our friends from Japan on direct flights to The Marianas, and tomorrow, it will finally be possible," said MVA board chair Viola Alepuyo to attendees. "The restart of flights was made possible with the leadership of the Honorable Governor Ralph Deleon Guerrero Torres; the persistence of our Japan Tourism Investment Resumption Plan (TRIP) chairman, Mr. Ivan Quichocho; the dedication of the Japan TRIP members

YEOM

From Page 1

and all IPI's gaming assets are under CCC's purview in this jurisdiction.

He said they require those documentation to track the gaming assets to make sure they don't end up in the hands of the unlicensed or unauthorized persons or entities.

"To that end, the receiver is doing all it can to cooperate with us," Yeom said.

Earlier last month, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona lifted the stay on the limited receivership that was previously granted against IPI and has ordered the appointed receiver, Clear Management, to proceed with its auctions of IPI's assets starting Aug. 30, 2022, to satisfy a court judgment.



Yeom

22-84 passed and now goes to the Senate for action.

The bill would repeal a statute pertaining to the Waiver of Homestead Requirements.

Under the legislation, DPL shall

NMC offices closed today and Monday

Northern Marianas College offices will be closed on Friday, Sept. 2, 2022, from 12pm to 5pm. In observance of Labor Day, NMC offices will also be closed on Monday, Sept. 5, 2022. Administrative and student service offices

waive any requirements, limitations or regulations relating to the agricultural homesteading program in effect.

Under the bill, legally entitled to all the rights and interest of ownership of such agricultural land are any

will reopen on Tuesday, Sep. 6, 2022.

Individuals who need assistance or need more information about classes and/or college services can email oar@marianas.edu or visit www.marianas.edu. (PR)

person who can demonstrate continuous and actual occupancy or use of public land for agricultural purposes (grazing/farming) and etc. for a period of 35 years or more.

Also entitled are any person who can demonstrate that he or she would have continuously and actually occupied or used public land for agricultural purposes for a period of 35 years or more but for the U.S. military or

Trust Territory Administration's removal of the person from such land.

DPL shall convey such land by deed to any person who complies with procedures and requirements for granting of deeds established under the statute.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

upon posting \$2500.

Following the hearing, Smith was remanded back to Department of Corrections custody.

According to court documents, on Aug. 19, 2022, police responded to a reported assault and attempted rape incident in Chinatown, Garapan.

The victim told police that Smith, her common-law husband, was drinking that night and when he arrived home, he was talking about problems they had in the past.

She said she told him to stop and to go to sleep but Smith refused.

She added that this went on for a while and she was not able to sleep

because Smith kept waking her up.

She said Smith also kept asking her to have intercourse with him, but she said no because she was tired.

She said Smith refused to let her rest and told her to "stop pretending" like she was sleeping.

At around 1:30 am, the victim said, Smith jumped on top of her and put one knee on her left inner thigh and the other knee on her right inner thigh and held her arms down.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

led by Mr. Masaru Sunaga; and the hard working management and staff of the Marianas Visitors Authority."

United Airlines and the MVA will also hold a ribbon-cutting ceremony at Tokyo-Narita International Airport at the departure gate before the first flight at 9:25pm last night.

"Our Marianas starlit nights and blue skies during the day, clear ocean, friendly people, and relaxing way of life – passengers on tonight's flight will soon experience all of that for themselves," said MVA managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo. "In the meantime, the MVA is ramping up ongoing promotions with a series of new partnerships and product offerings to entice Japanese visitors."

United Airlines will fly three weekly flights departing Tokyo-Narita International Airport at 9:25pm on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays

and arriving in Saipan one day later at 2am. Flights from Saipan will depart on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 7am and arrive in Narita at 9:35am.

The airline is eligible for financial incentives for the flights under the TRIP program. The program will continue for an initial six months with an option to renew for an additional six months as the MVA and tourism partners work to stabilize the Japan market. As direct flights with Japan have been infrequent for most of the last four years, the MVA is working on rebuilding public awareness of the Marianas as a tourist destination, especially among the younger generation.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

Yeom informed the CCC board last week that receiver Clear Management's Tim Shepherd notified him last Aug. 19 that they are prepping up for the auction.

He said Shepherd inquired about any of CCC's concerns and/or guidelines to comply for the auction.

Yeom said they responded to Shepherd in an email to identify CCC's pressing concerns are, by pretty much itemizing all of the crucial elements that need to be documented in and around any sales, transactions of the IPI's assets, specifically gaming assets.

The executive director said it is unfortunate that this receivership is happening before CCC's eyes, but that they still have to make sure that the movement of these gaming assets are being tracked so that they do not end up in the wrong person's hands.

Yeom said they also want to make sure that they remove all of the CCC tags and/or seals on the Electronic Gaming Machines and keep abreast of the latest inventories of IPI's gaming assets.

Electronic Gaming Machines are also known as slot machines.

Yeom said their Information Technology manager Ian Morrell and Enforcement & Investigations/Permit & Licensing acting manager Thelma Mizer are in charge of managing and collaborating with the grounds crew from Clear Management to discuss all of the moves that will occur moving forward.

He said from his conversation with Shepherd, the first auction will take place several weeks at the very least.

Yeom said Shepherd will inform CCC once the date of auction becomes more apparent as they move along in their preparation and various arrangements.

realign as we pushed through the uncertainty. Now, and in the years to come, we will continue to move forward with a renewed sense of purpose, hope, and gratitude.

In January 2021, we saw the first group of Korean tourists enter the CNMI's borders thanks to the Travel Investment Resumption Plan. We will soon witness the revival of the Japanese market, with the first inaugural flights arriving in the CNMI this weekend. As our tourism industry expands, we will be able to open more businesses and provide more jobs to our community. We thank our tourism professionals for their vital role in supporting our top industry.

To our medical professionals who have been working around the clock to save lives; the retail, grocery, and essential service workers who show up to work every day to provide us with food, medicine, and necessities to thrive; and our government workers who ensured that our essential public services continue to be provided, I thank you! Our people are grateful to you for all that you do to risk your health and safety to protect theirs.

I would like to also express my gratitude to each member of the Governor's Council of Economic Advisors, as well as the Public Private Partnership program volunteers, public and private partners, local leaders, and members of our community for their dedication and contributions to making the Northern Mariana Islands a safer and better place to live.

Happy Labor Day, Marianas! Have a safe celebration and remember to pause and reflect on how far we have come as a community because we worked together. Together, We Can!

For more information about GCEA's programs, visit cnmieconomy.com, engage with the council on Facebook and Instagram (@cnmigov.economy), or contact them at gceacnmi@gmail.com.

doctor at the emergency room in the presence of police officers Keremes Terry and Vince Igital. There, Camacho admitted that he had consumed alcoholic beverages prior to the crash and admitted to being the driver of the vehicle.

Camacho also mentioned that he helped the occupants get out from the vehicle prior to fleeing the scene and other information pertaining to the crash.

At around 4pm, police asked Camacho to submit to a blood draw, which he refused.

At 6:43pm, police lieutenant Norris Kwon tested the green leafy substance and results came out presumptive positive for marijuana.

TOGETHER

From Page 1

and daily uncertainty that put pressure on all of us, both physically and mentally.

The past two years have not been easy, and not enough can be said about the effort and time that our people put into keeping our islands running, especially since we continue to battle and overcome the pandemic's effects. Despite the quarantine, lockdowns, limitations, and so on, our service workers, frontliners, and leaders always found a way to assure everyone's safety.

Before the pandemic, grocery workers, trash collectors, and most service workers were taken for granted. Today, these workers have a new understanding of how valuable they are to our daily survival. They are the pillars of our community.

As we celebrate Labor Day, I encourage our community to say thank you to our service and frontline workers for all they do to care for our community and keep us safe. Many essential workers never stopped working.

The change will continue to happen as we progress into 2023, and one thing is certain: we must plan for the unforeseen. If 2020 taught us something, it is to expect the unexpected.

Moving forward

Throughout the past two years, we saw glimpses of hope and recovery as businesses quickly reimagined how to continue serving food and offering services. We witnessed how everyone pitched in to help. Volunteers conducted beach clean-ups while following the safety mandates in place.

We've had to shift with the rest of the world and figure out how to move forward. We've encountered countless opportunities to reflect and

CRIMINAL

From Page 3

100 mph and was told multiple times to slow down but he refused to do so, even saying, "I know how to drive."

Police who were investigating the scene at around 4:45am noted that they observed opened cans of beer containers inside the crashed truck, an opened and empty vodka liquor bottle, and a black pouch containing a medium-size Ziplock bag containing a green leafy substance.

At around 3:15pm, court documents said Camacho arrived at CHCC and was questioned by the



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- Lead power generation in evaluation of required parts and consumable required for immediate, interim and long term needs, as per the corporation's goals.
- Prepare relevant maintenance and overhaul schedule, including Preventive Maintenance Program (PMP) of the power plant engines, their auxiliary systems and distribution facilities based on OEM recommendation and condition monitoring principles.
- Train and lead the plant staff in implementation and the supervision of such schedules and related activities.
- Improve and increase existing power generation capacity, reliability of power generation and generation efficiencies, thereby reducing avoidable loss.
- Minimizing equipment failures and downtime through structured planning and maximizing component life through effective Operation and Maintenance (O & M).
- Lead the CUC with the preparation of specifications and bidding documents for the power plants, as required by the generation and distribution management.
- Provide guidance, management support, and supervision in streamlining and expediting the procurement of parts for power generation.
- Lead in the evaluation and assessment of the plant O & M personnel, and lead them in the implementation of structured training programs for the lack of skill levels identified.
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Minimum Requirements:

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Ability to: Plan, schedule, assign, review, and evaluate the work of others; coordinate the activities with those of the Power Generation Division and outside organizations; deal tactfully and effectively with others, both inside and outside the Corporation, including representing the Corporation with other organizations and agencies; make effective oral presentation; monitor new developments, legislation, and other agencies' activities that may affect the work.

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CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

Working Knowledge of: Engineering principles and practices; practices, procedures, and terminology of the engineering, operational, planning and/or technical support functions supervised; Commonwealth and Federal regulations pertaining to the work; and effective management techniques.

General Knowledge of: Surveying and modern construction methods; Commonwealth laws relating to engineering, power supplies, fuel storage, and environmental impact assessments; principles and techniques of supervision.

Skills in: Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards (based on assignment); Providing customer services, Filing, organizing and maintain records and files; Preparing basic reports, correspondence and documentation; Managing time and prioritizing requests; Providing attention to detail; Proofreading documents for accuracy; Identifying errors and making corrections; Reviewing and researching account information; Maintaining confidentiality of records and information; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with co-workers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Licensing: Valid Driver's License with appropriate class.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131

CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.



COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-22-032

SAN ANTONIO WATERLINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of San Antonio Waterline Replacement in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists, in general installation of a new main waterline and lateral service line; connection to the existing waterline; relocation of water meters from private property to right-of-way, installation of gate valve assembly, air release valves, fire hydrant assembly, flush hydrants; existing lateral service tap relocation; restoration of existing asphalt concrete road; and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **365 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **August 25, 2022 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "**CUC-IFB-22-032, San Antonio Water Line Replacement Project**", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 15, 2022**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidder. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on August 26, 2022** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email at manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Ms. Alley Reyes, Project Engineer – via email at alley.reyes@cucgov.org and Ms. Marcela Tenorio, Procurement & Supply, Purchasing Technician Senior – via email at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLÁN
Purchasing Administrator

OSHA briefs Rotarians on workplace safety



FAHIM UDDINOSHA

Safety and Occupational Health Management worker Justine Callahan, third from left, and OSHA project manager Timothy Asaivo, fourth from left, hold their certificates of appreciation after making a presentation at the weekly Rotary Club of Saipan meeting last Tuesday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

By FAHIM UDDIN
fahimuddin489@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration reiterated the importance of workplace safety for employees during their presentation at the Rotary Club of Saipan meeting last Tuesday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

"I am hoping workers on the island all understand they are under federal OSHA jurisdiction and we are willing and able to protect them while working here at CNMI," said Safety and Occupational Health Management worker Justine Callahan.

She also discussed several scenarios that violate OSHA regulations as well as measures to increase an employer's understanding of and compliance with standards, rules, and regulations published under the Occupational Safety and Health Act.

Callahan touched upon reducing worker injury and illness rates, decreasing workers compensation costs, improving worker morale, increasing productivity, recognizing and removing hazards from your workplace, and improving safety and health management systems.

Some Rotary Club members brought up the CW workers, where illegal hiring by companies is a persistent problem on Saipan.

"It's not their fault," said Callahan, adding that more education is needed in this

4.7-magnitude earthquake shakes Guam

A report of a 4.7-magnitude earthquake occurred 297 kilometers west-southwest of Merizo Village, Guam at 3:14am last Sept. 1. Currently, there are no tsunami warnings

or advisories that were issued for the CNMI.

For more information, please contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at (670) 237-8000. (PR)



Are you a CNMI registered business owner or a non-profit organization? Has your business suffered financial distress? Do you have great plans for starting a new business but need financing?

BOOST Program is the acronym for - Building Optimism, Opportunities and Stability Together. It is a financial assistance in the form of Grants – initiated by the Office of the Governor, Department of Commerce, and Department of Finance – provided to local businesses and non-profits, as well as coaching and training programs to support their viability and help create employment opportunities. The program also supports the Commonwealth government's goal of diversifying the economy and increasing tax revenues.

Hurry! Avail now of the
BOOST PROGRAM GRANTS.
For inquiries logon to
www.boostcnmi.com



WIOA training at SHRM conference

By FAHIM UDDIN
fahimuddin489@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Department of Labor director Frances Torres and program coordinator Colleen Diaz presented the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act training program during the CNMI Chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management meeting Wednesday afternoon at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

WIOA youth program provides young people with a wide range of services to address employment related obstacles and prepare them for possibilities in post-secondary education and the workforce.

"Similar to the youth pro-



gram, adult jobseekers have access to an array of services that is focused on their education, training, and employment needs. DOL WIA provides equal opportunities to adult and youth career seekers," said Torres.

The program gives young people the chance to learn about the job market and start down a professional pathway of their choosing.

"Increasing the pipeline of skilled workers to meet the growing demands of our business community to drive economic growth."

SHRM members inquired about the minimum wage and CW employees during the presentation

Torres did, however, respond to the key queries by stating that they are addressing the problem.

These programs—incumbent worker training, and registered apprenticeship programs—were also developed by Torres.

She also touched on the WIOA youth programs and services, adult programs, and programs for displaced workers.

The Comprehensive Employment and Training Act, which established the program, was passed in the 1970s. Its successor, the Job Training Partnership Act, was passed in 1982, and it was replaced by the Workforce Investment Act in 1998 and the current Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act in 2014.

Department of Labor director Frances Torres gives a presentation about the many programs of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act during the Society of Human Resources Management meeting last Wednesday at Hyatt Regency Saipan.



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY(CPA) CNMI GOVERNMENT

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 • Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
Website: www.cnmiports.com

AMENDED NOTICE TO BIDDERS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) is inviting qualified contractors to submit bid proposals and their qualifications for the **FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT COMMUTER TERMINAL BUILDING CONSTRUCTION, PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-007-19**, for the island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Bidders are to submit one original and two copies of their bid which shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: **Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport Commuter Terminal Building Construction, Project No. CPA-SA-007-19** and submitted no later than **2:00 P.M. (CHST), Friday, SEPTEMBER 16, 2022**, to the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read. Bidders are requested to minimize their company's attendees to ensure social distancing.

The Project, in general, consists of, but is not limited to, construction of a new commuter terminal facility with four (4) airline offices and counter space, restaurant vendor space, restrooms for departure and arrivals, lactating room, office space/counter for U.S. Customs and Border Protection including all associated work, all in accordance with the Plans and Specifications. In addition, the contractor is provided an allowance for artwork to be provided at the new commuter terminal. The artwork will be locally themed including, but not limited to, painting, murals, or as determined and coordinated with CPA.

The Project is being financed by funds by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for one hundred eighty (180) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

A DVD containing the Contract Documents including plans, specifications and the bid schedule, may be obtained at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd floor of the Departure Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, upon the payment of **THREE HUNDRED U.S. DOLLARS (\$300.00)** for each set of plans and documents in electronic form (DVD). The payment is nonrefundable unless bids are canceled. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Bidders should notify CPA's point of contact mentioned below immediately if there are issues retrieving the files on the DVD and are to verify all information using the specification table of contents and the index of drawings.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at **10:00 A.M. (CHST), FRIDAY, AUGUST 12, 2022**, at the CPA Saipan Airport Conference Room to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. Attendance is not mandatory. A site visit will follow the pre-bid conference. For site visits after the pre-bid conference, bidders are to coordinate with Mr. Edward B. Mendiola, CPA's Deputy Director at edmendiola@cnmiports.com or telephone number (670) 237-6500.

Questions should be submitted in writing to the CPA Executive Director's Office, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or emailed to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, Executive Assistant/Project Manager at wprater@cnmiports.com at least ten (10) days prior to the bid opening date; with the exception of bid opening extension requests which have no deadline. Responses to all questions and requests for information will be provided to all bidders who picked up a DVD or attended the pre-bid conference.

Bidders shall use the bid schedule form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority on the DVD. Each bidder must also supply all supplemental information required in the specifications.

The contract period for construction of the project in its entirety shall be **FIVE HUNDRED FORTY (540) calendar days**. Liquidated damages in the amount of **ONE THOUSAND (\$1,000.00) Dollars** shall be assessed the Contractor for each calendar day that the completion of the Project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without approved excuse.

The apparent low bidder will be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or misenter of the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by a U.S. Treasury listed or CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 70-28 of the specifications. The bidder shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract and include associated costs in the bid proposal. The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 USC §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders or offerors that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

The United States Secretary of Transportation has granted the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands an exemption from the requirements of the Department of Transportation's Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) regulation, which later became the Department of Transportation's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program, as it relates to FAA grant programs. The Secretary of Transportation has not determined that a portion of those requirements should be reinstated.

By submitting a bid/proposal under this solicitation, the bidder or offeror certifies that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred or suspended by any Federal department or agency from participation in this transaction.

In addition to the above, all bidders shall comply with all other Federal requirements under this procurement, including but not limited to Buy American Preference, Foreign Trade Restriction, Davis-Bacon, Veteran's Preference, Affirmative Action and Government-wide Debarment and Suspension and Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-free Workplace. Further details on all Federal requirements are provided in the specifications.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: August 17, 2022



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA)

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 • Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
www.cnmiports.com

AMENDED NOTICE TO BIDDERS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) is inviting qualified contractors to submit their qualifications and bid proposals for the **TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PARKING LOT EXPANSION PROJECT, PROJECT NO. CPA-TA-001-20**, OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS.

Bidders are to submit one original and two copies of their bid which shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: **"Tinian International Airport Parking Lot Expansion Project, CPA-TA-001-20"** and submitted on or before **2:00 p.m., MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2022**, to the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read.

The Project, in general, consists of construction of additional parking spaces including all associated work, all in accordance with the Plans and Specifications.

The Project is being financed by funds by CPA. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for one hundred eighty (180) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

A DVD containing the Contract Documents including plans, specifications and the bid schedule, may be obtained at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd floor of the Departure Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, upon the payment of **ONE HUNDRED FIFTY U.S. DOLLARS (\$150.00)** for each DVD. The payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Bidders should notify CPA's point of contact mentioned below immediately if there are issues retrieving the files on the DVD and should verify all information using the specification table of contents and the index of drawings.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the Tinian International International Airport Departure Terminal, at **10:00 AM, FRIDAY, AUGUST 19, 2022**, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. A site visit will follow the pre-bid conference. This pre-bid is not mandatory. For site visits after the pre-bid conference, bidders are to coordinate with Mr. Antonio Borja, CPA's Tinian Ports Manager at alborja@cnmiports.com or telephone number (670) 433-9294.

Questions should be submitted in writing to the CPA Executive Director's Office, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or emailed to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, Executive Assistant/Project Manager at wprater@cnmiports.com at least ten (10) days prior to the bid opening date, with the exception of extension requests which have no deadline. Responses to all questions and requests for information will be provided to all bidders who purchased a DVD and attended the pre-bid conference.

Each bid proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority and available on the DVD. Each bidder must also supply all supplemental information required in the specifications.

The contract period for construction of the project in its entirety shall be **Two Hundred Forty (240) calendar days**. Liquidated damages in the amount of **Five Hundred (\$500.00) Dollars** shall be assessed the Contractor for each calendar day that the completion of the Project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without approved excuse.

The apparent low bidder will be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or misenter of the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by a U.S. Treasury listed or CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 70-28 of the specifications. The bidder shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract and include associated costs in the bid proposal. The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 USC §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders or offerors that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

The United States Secretary of Transportation has granted the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands an exemption from the requirements of the Department of Transportation's Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) regulation, which later became the Department of Transportation's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program, as it relates to FAA grant programs. The Secretary of Transportation has not determined that a portion of those requirements should be reinstated.

By submitting a bid/proposal under this solicitation, the bidder or offeror certifies that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred or suspended by any Federal department or agency from participation in this transaction.

In addition to the above, all bidders shall comply with all other local and Federal requirements as outlined in the specifications.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: August 22, 2022

PMAC seeks more uniform authority over jurisdictions

President Jim Atalig and vice president Juanita Mendiola, on behalf of the Pacific Alliance of Municipal Councils, delivered the final draft of the proposals to the offices of Senate President Hofsneider (R-Tinian) and Speaker Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), seeking to amend the CNMI Constitution granting the municipalities a more uniform authority over their local jurisdictions.

The proposal includes more clarity on the municipal councils' oversight authority over local offices that are legally

established by law, appropriation and reprogramming authority over local budgets, and enacting local laws with the mayors having approval and veto powers. The extent of the municipal authority shall extend to all matters that are predominantly local in nature and not preempted by the state.

For many years the municipalities have sought such amendments through legislative initiative, but were always met with resistance. However, PMAC aims to launch public outreach and collect support-

ing signatures from the CNMI constituents to express their desire and hopefully place the proposals on the ballot through either legislative or popular initiatives.

"In either case, PMAC will

attempt to secure the support of the people through petition drives" Atalig stated. "This is something that the people should decide if the legislature does not want to decide on its own."

"Let the CNMI Legislature focus on CNMI-wide issues while the municipalities focus on their unique local needs and programs," said Mendiola.

The first public outreach is currently scheduled to take

place on Rota on Sept. 7 and 8, 2022. Detailed information will be announced later informing the public where and the time the public outreach will be held in each municipality. (PR)

GO GREEN CAMPAIGN RAFFLE WINNER

Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc. recently held a giveaway to promote its Pacifica Go-Green campaign to encourage the general community to make our planet our best friend and to build environmental stewardship for the protection of our environment. The giveaway was held earlier this year from April to July and gave its GoGreen members the opportunity to win its monthly raffle giveaway prizes. In the photo is the programs July winner Dolores Ruemau who bagged a Timber Ridge Zero Gravity Lounger. For information about Pacifica GoGreen log on to pacificains.com/gogreen. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



**PLEASE
ELECT**

**JUAN TUDELA
LIZAMA**
FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL

Thank you

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Juan Tudela Lizama

It will be a special honor and privilege to serve the great people of the CNMI as their next Attorney General, and I look forward to helping create and protect current and future generations of citizens as we come together to build a brighter and safer tomorrow. JTL

September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

Although suicide prevention is a topic that is important year-round, we dedicate September as Suicide Prevention Awareness Month.

We stand with our allies, community partners, other mental health organizations, and with people all over the world to raise awareness on suicide prevention. Our goal is to use this month to spread hope, provide support, and helpful resources to those who need it. Suicidal thoughts, just like many mental health conditions, can affect anyone regardless of age, gender, or ethnicity. WE ALL HAVE A ROLE IN PREVENTING SUICIDE. You can help raise awareness by having real conversations about mental health with friends, family members, or with anyone who is having a difficult time. It can be hard for individuals to reach out for help. Be the one to ask and to listen without judgement. We can all benefit from honest conversations about our mental health and suicide.

These conversations could help change and even save lives.

Mark your calendars!

- **September 04 - 10, 2022:** National Suicide Prevention Week
- **September 10, 2022:** World Suicide Prevention Day
- **September 09, 2022:** Light Up the Night Walk at Tronkon Da'ok, Saipan
- **September 13, 2022:** Light up the Night Walk at the Tinian Fiesta Grounds in San Jose, Tinian
- **September 17, 2022:** Light up the Night Walk at the Tun Kindu Baseball field in Sinapalo, Rota
 - All Light up the Night events will begin and end at the same time:
 - Registration at 5:30 PM
 - Walk begins at 6:15 PM
 - Event ends at 7:30 PM

If you or someone you know is having thoughts of suicide, please call the CNMI Suicide Prevention Program at 670-664-LIVE (5483) or 670-664-LIFE (5433) between 7:30 AM-4:30 PM, Monday through Friday (state and federal holidays are observed), or call the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline*, which is available 24 hours a day.

For a crisis during closed hours please call 911, go to the CHCC Emergency Room, or reach out to someone you trust to keep you safe.

*988 has been designated as the new three-digit dialing number that will route callers to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

cnmiglsysp@gmail.com

chcc.health

CNMI Suicide Prevention

cnmi.suicide.prevention



Opinion

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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Extend, fund free COVID tests

The COVID-19 virus's course and evolution remain unpredictable. But this far into the pandemic, there are some safe assumptions.

One of them is a fall-winter spike in cases. Colder weather's return, schools resuming and holiday gatherings contribute to the crowded indoor conditions that fuel viral spread. A look back at case counts since the pandemic's 2020 start confirms this, with hospitalizations and deaths rising during this time frame.

The pandemic's third autumn is looming. That reality makes this an alarming time for Congress to let one of the best tools to fight COVID-19's spread — rapid, at-home tests — become less accessible and affordable. The nation's policymakers need to reverse this mistake as soon as possible.

By now, the names of over-the-counter COVID-19 test kits should be familiar. They include BinaxNOW, iHealth, QuickVue, Flowflex and InteliSwab, just to name a few. The products are available on Amazon, at pharmacies and retailers such as Target and Walmart.

Results typically are available in about 15 minutes. The convenience and speed make it easy to determine if you or a family member should isolate instead of going to school, to the office or to a family gathering. If you're positive, staying home can break the chain of this airborne virus's spread.

But the tests' price tag can be daunting. A box of two Binax tests costs \$23.99 at Walgreens, for example. During a surge, these tests can also be hard to find. Retailers' shelves emptied quickly in Minnesota last January when the omicron variant hit. Even online supplies were elusive for a time.

A sensible federal program that mailed free rapid tests to individual households helped ensure that the public had tests on hand and could do its part to halt COVID-19's spread. All consumers have to do is go to covid.gov/tests to sign up. Individual households have been eligible for three rounds of shipments.

But that program is ending Friday. While the program obviously can't continue indefinitely, the timing is abysmal given what is known about COVID-19 and colder weather's return. It's also disturbing because of what Minnesota infectious disease expert Michael Osterholm has called COVID-19's "high plateau" — the stable but high level of cases this summer.

The Biden administration is blaming Congress for not funding the program's continuation. Dollars for tests and other COVID-19 countermeasures are drying up from legislation passed earlier in the pandemic, but new funding has fallen victim to politics and process even as Biden's own party has passed landmark legislation such as the Inflation Reduction Act.

Congressional leaders need to address this oversight as soon as possible — for example, by attaching emergency supplemental funding to other must-pass legislation in the weeks ahead. Pending legislation calls for an additional \$21 billion to fund the federal COVID-19 response, including

See EXTEND on Next Page



Republican paranoia could cost the party in November

The terror that mainstream conservative Republican politicians have felt over the threat of being called insufficiently conservative — of being tagged as Republicans in Name Only — has made governing difficult for them since the 1990s. But whenever they were the minority party in Washington, they could correctly assume that there was little electoral cost to mollifying the party's right wing.

This year, that presumption may no longer hold up. With an incumbent president whose approval rating barely tops 40% and plenty of discontent about the economy, Democrats should be facing heavy losses. Instead, there are signs Republican might only make minor gains in the November midterms. The GOP could even lose seats in the Senate and among governors. And that is all due to Republican fears of being labeled RINO.

From the 2016 presidential campaign through the second impeachment vote in the Senate, Republicans have had plenty of opportunities to rid themselves of Trump. Yet time after time, they chose instead to stick with him, with the party and with party-aligned media, giving Trump, who apparently cares little about public policy or the conservative movement, the ability to decide what counts as orthodoxy.

Given the legal trouble the former president has gotten himself into, being a "true conservative" now includes a requirement to defend Trump's attempt to overthrow the 2020 election as well as his right to classified material, including ultra-sensitive information about human intelligence, and store it willy-nilly at a not-even-close-to-secure location.

Republicans know that the weeks leading up to midterm elections aren't a good time to pick a fight with the party leader, especially one who they believe won't hesitate to turn against anyone who opposes him. That means the next opportunity to move away from Trump is probably after the November midterms. Until then, Republicans are probably stuck with whatever he does that disrupts the party's attempts to run coherent campaigns and focus voters on President Joe Biden's weaknesses.

Nominating extremist candidates who perform badly in general elections has occasionally been costly for Republicans. It's getting much worse. To some extent this is a consequence of having Trump around, but the former president's support doesn't carry that much clout.

Instead, the problem has been that the party simply doesn't know how to protect itself from cranks and fraudsters. Republicans lack an effective counterargument against anyone who claims to be a true conservative and denounces everyone else for being RINOs. So inexperienced candidates with unpopular views, such as Arizona Senate nominee Blake Masters, or Pennsylvania gubernatorial nominee Doug Mastriano, often get nominated — or they wind up dragging the eventual nominee so

By JONATHAN BERNSTEIN

Bloomberg Opinion

Jonathan Bernstein is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering politics and policy. He taught political science at the University of Texas at San Antonio and DePauw University and wrote *A Plain Blog About Politics*.



far from the mainstream that the nominee risks losing.

Democrats don't always nominate moderates, and even healthy parties sometimes choose to embrace unpopular positions despite the potential electoral costs. But Republicans too often act as if the only question of any relevance is which candidate is the purest conservative. Relevant experience and appeal to independents is either ignored or actually considered a flaw.

It isn't clear how much the Supreme Court's decision to end the constitutional right to abortions will cost Republicans this fall. But it sure doesn't appear to be helping. The court itself has become unpopular. Voters appear to be increasingly attached to abortion rights now that those rights have been threatened or eliminated; meanwhile Republican legislatures are passing all sorts of uncompromising bills.

We could chalk up some of this to a normal willingness to push through new policies even at the cost of future electoral loss. But Republican moves following the court ruling, in addition to the court's decision itself, seem reckless. Republican presidents and senators haven't been satisfied with solidly conservative justices such as current Chief Justice John Roberts or former Justice Anthony Kennedy. Trump, in particular, used judicial nominations to secure the support of the hardest-line activists within the Republican coalition, and Republican senators eagerly went along, only to find that if you put extremists on the court you're likely to get extreme decisions that put targets on the politicians who supported them.

The same goes for state legislators and governors who are unwilling to settle for most of a loaf when they can grab the whole thing. Abortion is one of several policy areas, along with guns and climate, in which Republican judges are taking extreme stands that are wildly popular among the most loyal Republican voters but have little backing beyond them.

It's still possible that Biden's unpopularity will swamp everything else once the majority of voters start paying attention. But it's also possible that for perhaps the first time in modern U.S. history, the party out of power will manage to throw away an election that they stood to win.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Honest to God — Enough!

I'm not injecting religion but "honest to God" is a common saying among locals when it's enough, as many voters are now saying this about Ralph and Arnold. First Ralph loses in court against the JGO and then he still facing 13 more unlucky charges compounded by the recent FBI subpoenas in his pending RICO case and his failure to appear on the Marianas Agupa Show are all indicators or should I say omens of divine intervention and justice of things to come. When one considers all these things, I'm sure even many Torres voters are thinking and saying—honest to God, that's enough!

The truth is, Ralph has grossly messed up and he can't turn around nor can he fix it so he is just plowing ahead thinking he is indestructible like he implies with the "Resilience" on his

signs. But after 71 years on this earth and experience with the justice system, I can tell voters with a high degree of certainty that Ralph will not beat both the state and eventual federal RICO charges.

But then there is Arnold who is running solely on "his name and family ties," as his statements on the Marianas Agupa Forum say a lot about why we need Tina. First, Arnold agrees with Tina on almost everything, then he says "we will give it our best shot" and he even admitted his "disappointed with the many Photo Ops and projects that were never finished" while he admittedly was "taking it on the chin and swallowing his pride" which was his modus operandi of "being blind-eyed and silent" as the lieutenant governor. It seems he only parted ways with Ralph because it was clear that Ralph is "dun" as we say in my culture and he saw a chance to fill the Republicans' power vacuum that was definitely looming large—an opportunist, not a leader. Nothing is going to change with Arnold and it could get even worse given he hasn't offered any real visionary plan for our economy to be rebuilt, just rebuilding trust—LOL to keep from crying!

Arnold is throwing political catchwords at us like "equitable, fair and transparent" instead of telling us what he will do. Arnold is claiming that these three political catch-words are "what the

people have been longing for," which is true, but it is also sad too many have literally already swallowed the entire bait and hook pledging to vote for the AD Team when Tina can obviously do it better. Arnold went from Rebuilding Trust to equitable, fair, and transparent but he didn't offer anything new in the forum—just copied off Tina like students do in school, said one commenter. I think most voters with common sense will agree that our economy and quality of life is far more important than the political catch words that Arnold is pitching to voters. I keep reminding voters he knows how to "talk the talk but can't walk the talk".

I will continue to pose the genuine question of "what will be different or even better if Torres or Arnold wins" as most people with common sense know the answer is nothing (taya) and nothing to really celebrate. Honest to God, enough of Ralph and his poli-tricking and the word-semantics games of Arnold, we the people need real leaders with the right stuff to deliver us all from the evils we face economically and socially and that's for real! Tina and Leila are obviously our best hope for better and never after this election.

Ambrose M. Bennett

Kagman

Some of the major issues confronting CNMI voters

For the 2022 general election this coming November, one of the most important issues that should be considered by the people of the CNMI is the ability of those elected to public office to govern the CNMI competently, fairly and in accordance with the rule of law. As we know, when we have a government that is competent, fair and follows the rule of law, the welfare and well-being of all the people of the commonwealth is promoted and fostered.

Forty-four years ago, the CNMI began its journey at self-government, as a member of the American political family. Although the CNMI is not a State, it is a self-governing political entity within the American political family. But although it is not a state, the CNMI is also not "a territory or property belonging to the United States" under the Territorial Clause of the U.S. Constitution. As such, the CNMI is not subject to the "plenary powers of Congress" as is the case with the U.S. territories, such as Guam and the Virgin Islands. Our right to internal self-government pursuant to the NMI Covenant is similar to the right of a State to govern itself internally.

Under the terms of the NMI Covenant, the federal government cannot interfere with the right of the CNMI to govern itself internally. But the right of the CNMI to govern itself internally implies that our political leaders have a solemn duty and obligation to govern the commonwealth competently, fairly and in accordance with the constitution and laws of the CNMI.

Both our elected and appointed leaders have a constitutional duty to govern and serve the CNMI for the benefit of all the people, both the majority and the minority. That is the essence of good leadership and good government. Our political leaders have a solemn duty to govern for the benefit of all the people of the CNMI: not just those who supported their candidacy; not just their family members; and, certainly, not for the benefit of their close friends and cronies. Once the general election is over, the task of working for the welfare and well-being of all the people of the CNMI begins in earnest. And, as we should all be mindful, such solemn obligation on the part of our leaders is a serious undertaking. It is not a game, because people's lives and livelihood, as well as their rights and liberties, are at stake. Public service is

a public trust.

If the CNMI, however, is to continue down the same path that our political leaders have been taking us for most of the past 20 years, i.e., a practice where the CNMI government is run primarily to benefit the friend and cronies of those who won the election, then corruption in government will continue to take place; and the rule of law in the CNMI will continue to be an afterthought. If this unhealthy, and at times illegal, practice becomes entrenched in our political system, then at some point down the road the CNMI's exercise at self-government will be compromised and most likely will fail.

No one needs to tell us that the success of any governmental operation or endeavor is directly related to the qualification, competency and vision of the leaders whom we elect to public office. And we should know, by now, that when our leaders fail to govern impartially, fairly and competently as we have seen many times during the past two decades, it is the people of the CNMI who ultimately suffer the consequences of our leaders' actions or inaction. This is something that the people of the CNMI can neither afford nor allow to happen. Why? Because the failure of our leaders to carry out their duties and responsibilities under our constitution and laws ultimately calls into question our ability as a people to govern ourselves effectively and competently. This is something that the people of the CNMI should never allow or permit to happen. After more than four centuries of colonization by Spain, Germany, and Japan, the people of the CNMI can neither afford nor allow our exercise at CNMI self-government to fail after only forty years.

What the voters of the CNMI should do between now and the coming general election—to insure that our exercise at self-government will not become a failure—is to now take the time to examine the competency, qualification and fitness for office of each of the gubernatorial and legislative candidates running for public office. The candidates whom we elect this November to lead the CNMI will determine whether our exercise at local self-government will or will not become a failure. So much is riding at stake in this coming election. It, therefore, behooves (and I don't mean to sound academic by using this word) every voter in the CNMI to go over some of the basic criteria that each candidate running for public office must possess and should have before they are elected to public office.

First, the people of the CNMI should examine and must be satisfied that a candidate for public office possesses the requisite educational experience, maturity, work experience and personal qualities of leadership to make important public policy decisions and actions that will affect the entire CNMI and its people.

Second, if a candidate is an incumbent of the office he/she is now serving in, the people should ask whether he/she has carried out his duties and responsibilities as chief executive or as a member of the legislature—fairly, effectively, competently and in accordance with the constitution and laws of the CNMI. The people of the CNMI, in effect, need "to grade" our executive and

legislative branch members for their past performance in office, if they have been holding public office and are now running for re-election.

Third, does the candidate have a set of plans, goals and objectives that would promote the welfare and well-being of all the people of the commonwealth? For example, what are his/her plans to turn around the stagnant economy of the CNMI? What are his/her plans to make the delivery of public health services in the CNMI meet the needs of the people of the CNMI? What are his/her plans to improve and upgrade our public infrastructures, many of which are old and deteriorating?

Fourth, if the federal government substantially reduces ARPA and other federal financial assistance for the CNMI during the coming fiscal year—as most likely would be the case—what are the candidate's plans to make up for the substantial shortfall in public funds needed to meet the operational costs of the CNMI government and provide essential public service? Will the CNMI instead become like Puerto Rico when that territory became bankrupt in 2014 with roughly \$70 billion in debt? Will the federal government have to step in and run our local finances because, like Puerto Rico, our local leaders have very little idea or plan regarding how to extricate the CNMI from its financial deficits and its inability to service its government-issued obligation bonds? Does the CNMI want to become another Puerto Rico? Of course not.

Fifth, will the candidates for executive office continue to run and operate the CNMI personnel service system as if it is a part of (if not within) the governor's office, handing out jobs and employment mostly to friends, cronies and supporters? Never mind the applicants who have the credentials, background and education to fill vacant civil service positions.

Sixth, are our political leaders going to continue the CNMI government procurement practice whereby "sole source contracts" for projects and other government procurement have now become the rule for government procurement; and where "competitive bidding" for public projects and government requisitions is now apparently the exception?

One could go on and on asking other critical questions about each aspect of CNMI government practice and operation that directly affects the lives and livelihood of the people of the CNMI. The government talks a lot about "universal garbage collection" but the issue of garbage collection and trash disposal in the CNMI is still a major problem in the islands. We need action, not slogans like "Yes, We Can" to address these public service issues that our political leaders have time and time again failed to effectively address, resolve and rectify. But I shall stop here, so that the voters of the CNMI can think of any other critical issue(s) affecting the people of the CNMI, individually and collectively.

Jose S. Dela Cruz

Navy Hill

EXTEND

From Page 10

testing. That's a modest price to pay to contain the virus.

This is increasingly a "do-it-yourself" pandemic, with individuals left to gauge COVID-19 risk and decide when to take protective measures. At-home tests are a vital tool to help consumers make smart decisions to limit spread. The tests are also critical in knowing when to seek COVID-19 treatments such as Paxlovid, which must be taken within five days of symptom onset.

This pandemic isn't over, and at-home tests should continue to be widely available and easily accessible.

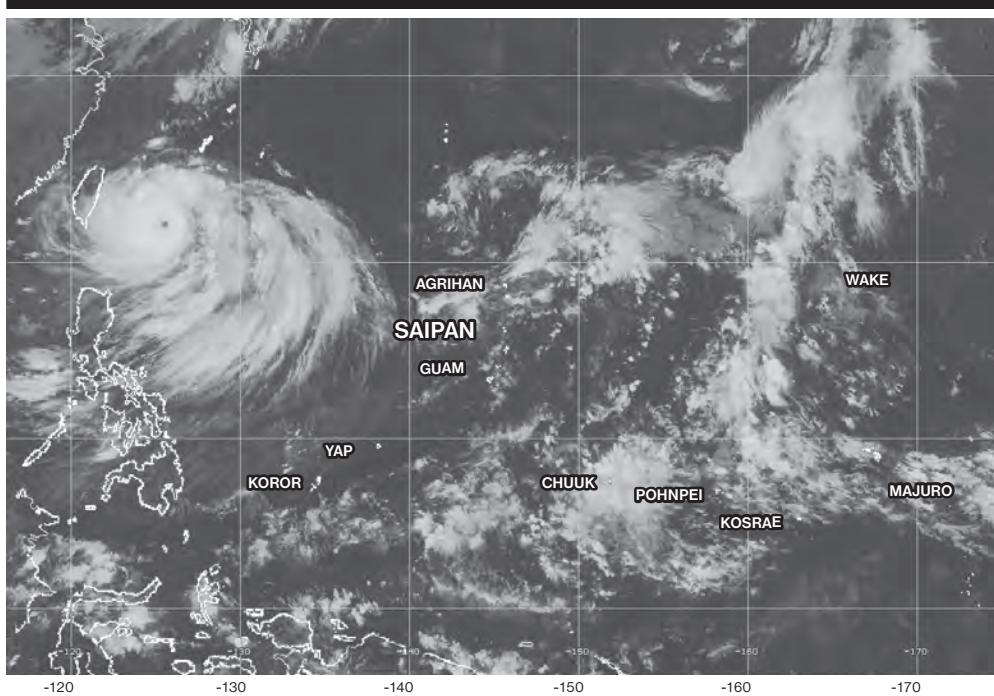
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly sunny	Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny	Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny	A chance of showers. Partly sunny	A chance of showers. Partly sunny

88° 77° 87° 77° 87° 77° 87° 77° 87° 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:24 AM, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Mainly partly cloudy skies are seen over the Marianas this morning, but scattered showers are slowly approaching the coastal waters from the west-northwest. A weak trough just west of the region is keeping winds light from the south. Seas are also light, with less than 3 feet indicated at all the buoys.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	85° / 77°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 75°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Pohnpei	Showers	87° / 76°
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	87° / 80°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:04 AM	6:28 PM
Saturday	6:04 AM	6:28 PM
Sunday	6:04 AM	6:27 PM
Monday	6:04 AM	6:26 PM
Tuesday	6:04 AM	6:25 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	10:52 AM	10:34 PM	-
Saturday	11:51 AM	11:23 PM	-
Sunday	12:53 PM	-	-
Monday	-	12:19 AM	1:57 PM
Tuesday	-	1:21 AM	3:00 PM

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website: www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 1, 2022

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
UA156	6:30PM	7:15PM	6	UA112	4:40PM	5:30PM	6
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	6:00AM	8:00AM	Daily	PR110	10:00PM	4:00AM+1	Daily
UA193	7:05PM	10:55PM	5 via Palau	UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily	UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	5 via Palau
				UA184	11:50PM	5:40AM+1	5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	5 via Guam, Palau	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Palau, Guam
				UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW9308	3:30PM	7:20PM	Daily	7C3406	8:30AM	2:10PM	6
7C3405	3:30PM	7:25PM	6	7C3406	8:50AM	2:50PM	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
7C3405	3:50PM	7:45PM	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7	OZ623	9:00AM	2:30PM	3, 6
OZ624	4:00PM	7:40PM	3, 6	TW9307	9:15AM	2:30PM	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:00PM	6:20PM	3, 7	7C3452	9:00AM	2:00PM	3, 7
BX621	3:10PM	6:30PM	3, 7	BX622	8:00AM	1:10PM	3, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (*The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.*)

MARIANAS SOUTHERN AIRWAYS

INITIAL DAILY FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 18, 2022

SAIPAN TO TINIAN			TINIAN TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
7:00 A.M.	7:15 A.M.	(Except Sundays)	7:35 A.M.	7:50 A.M.	(Except Sundays)
9:50 A.M.	10:05 A.M.		10:25 A.M.	10:40 A.M.	
4:00 P.M.	4:15 P.M.	(Except Saturdays)	4:35 P.M.	4:50 P.M.	(Except Saturdays)
SAIPAN TO ROTA			ROTA TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
8:10 A.M.	8:40 A.M.		9:00 A.M.	9:30 A.M.	
1:45 P.M.	2:15 P.M.		2:35 P.M.	3:05 P.M.	
SAIPAN TO GUAM			GUAM TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
11:10 A.M.	12:00 P.M.		12:30 P.M.	1:20 P.M.	
5:15 P.M.	6:05 P.M.		6:40 P.M.	7:30 P.M.	

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA				ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily	3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun	3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily	3103	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM				GUAM TO ROTA			
LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily	2104			

Admin leave granted to non-critical gov't employees

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres granted yesterday administrative leave to non-critical government employees in the spirit of this Labor Day weekend.

Torres in his memorandum addressed to all department and activity heads authorized

JKPL closes for 2022 Labor Day holiday

Due to the 2022 Labor Day holiday, Joeten-Kiyu Public Library will be closed on Saturday, Sept. 3, 2022.

Please enjoy your public library's free resources by visiting our website at www.cnmilib.org and like/follow JKPL's Facebook page @joetenkiyupubliclibrary, Instagram @joetenkiyupubliclibrary, Tik Tok @jkpl670, Twitter @JoetenKiyu, and YouTube: joeten kiyu public library to see the progress and programs JKPL has worked so hard to offer for our community. Contact (670) 235-7323/7322 (READ) or visit your friendly Joeten-Kiyu Public Library. Hours of Operation: Open Tuesday to Thursday 10am to 6pm, Friday 1:30pm to 7pm, and Saturday 9:30am to 4pm. Closed Sundays, Mondays, and Holidays.

Visit or contact your friendly Antonio C. Atalig Memorial Library on Rota (670) 532-7329. Hours of Operation: Open Monday to Friday from 8:30am to 5:30pm and Saturday from 8:30am to 12:30pm. Closed Sundays and holidays.

Visit or contact your friendly Tinian Public Library at (670) 433-0504. Hours of Operation: Open Monday to Friday from 7:30am to 4:30pm. Closed Saturday, Sunday, and holidays.

This project was made possible in part by the USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Grant #A1766A/62-005-746243834.

This project was made possible by support from the Northern Marianas Humanities Council, a non-profit, private corporation funded in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in these

National Library Week activities do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities. (ASAP21-0012)

This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services LS-250000-OLS-21, LS-250249-OLS-21 FY 2021 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Grant award, and LS-252496-OLS-22.

This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services LS-250000-OLS-21, LS-250249-OLS-21 FY 2021 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Grant award, and LS-252496-OLS-22. (PR)

the non-critical employees to take administrative leave after 12pm today, Friday.

Labor Day, which is traditionally observed on the first Monday in September, is an annual celebration of the work

and achievements of American workers in the country.

"Here in the Marianas, we recognize the hard work, contributions, and accomplishments of all our Commonwealth's employees," he said.

The governor said the government honors the employees' dedication to supporting the community throughout the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Torres said they recognize the employees' hard working efforts in the CNMI's recovery.

"This Labor Day weekend, please spend time with loved ones and friends, as we remember that we are one family working together to build a safer and more prosperous Marianas," said Torres as he urged the community to stay safe and celebrate responsibly. (Ferdie De La Torres)

**DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: RFP22-OPD-42200156**

SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 26, 2022 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

**"OPD BROADBAND USAC CONSULTING
ON DEMAND FOR THE SCHOOLS, LIBRARIES,
AND HOSPITALS OF THE CNMI"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE HORIGUCHI BLDG, GROUND FLOOR, 123 KOPPA DI ORU & BEACH ROAD, GARAPAN, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS OR VIA EMAIL TO moira.iglecia@opd.gov.mp.

****FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY****

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB ARE DUE ON **SEPTEMBER 12, 2022**, CLOSE OF BUSINESS AND CAN BE MADE TO PETER DRESSLAR, VIA E-MAIL AT peter.dresslar@opd.gov.mp.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIC SECTION 70-30.3-275 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

**/S/ A.KODEP OGUMORO-ULUDONG
DIRECTOR, OPD**

**/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS**

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NMHC JVA NO.	Positions:	Salary:	Opening Date	Closing Date
2022-029	CDBG-DR Receptionist (1-Position)	UNGRADED \$20,000.00 to \$25,000.00 Per annum	Aug. 31, 2022	Sept. 15, 2022 4:00pm
2022-030	CDBG-DR Construction Inspector (5-Positions)	UNGRADED \$25,000.00 to \$30,000.00 Per annum	Aug. 31, 2022	Sept. 15, 2022 4:00pm
2022-031	CDBG-DR Compliance Specialists (3-Positions)	UNGRADED \$25,000.00 to \$30,000.00 Per annum	Aug. 31, 2022	Sept. 15, 2022 4:00pm

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information can be accessed at www.nmhcgov.net and www.cnmci-cdbgr.com.

Applicants may submit their applications through the following options: Submission at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan; Drop Box located in front of the NMHC Building, Chalan Laulau, Beach Road; or email application and documents to officemanager@nmhcgov.net.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/9447 or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

(s)
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

**COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS**

Tel.: (670) 234-3751/52/53 • Website: www.dpl.gov.mp • Facebook: facebook.com/DPLCNMI

RFP21-RED005
"MANAGAHA ISLAND MASTER CONCESSION OPERATOR"

This RFP21-RED005 IS CANCELLED

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Department of Public Lands (DPL), are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified firms interested in being the Exclusive Master Concession Operator for service and activities on or relating to Managaha Island.

The revised RFP Information and Instruction Package is available online at www.dpl.gov.mp. Interested proposers may request an RFP packet by email referenced "RFP21-RED005 MANAGAHA CONCESSION". Responses to questions will be uploaded in the DPL website no later than November 12, 2021. DPL encourages interested proposers to visit our website for updates.

Sealed proposals must be marked "RFP21-RED005 MANAGAHA CONCESSION". One (1) original and seven (7) copies of sealed proposal must be submitted to the DPL at its address below no later than 14:00pm ChST, November 25, 2021.

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS
2ND FLOOR, JOEL EN DANDAN BUILDING
P.O. BOX 500830, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: (670) 234-3751/52/53
Facsimile No.: (670) 234-3755
Email: igisomar@dpl.gov.mp or dpl@dpl.gov.mp**

A non-refundable Administrative Processing Fee of Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500) is required upon submission of a proposal and payment must be made through cash or check payable to: DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS.

By submitting a proposal, the interested firm agrees to enter into a concession agreement. DPL reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfection in any proposal, if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interest of public land beneficiaries. ALL costs associated with preparing a proposal are entirely the responsibility of proposer. All proposals shall become the sole property of DPL.

/s/ SIXTO K. IGISOMAR, DPL Secretary

CANCELLED

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2022**, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public. Copies of a title insurance report for the properties are available to any prospective bidder upon request.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 29th day of August, 2022:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ., F-0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537
EMAIL: mwhite@saipan.com
ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

PRC, LLC :
Plaintiff,
-v.
GLOBUIL RESORT SAIPAN :
CORPORATION formerly known as CHANG SHIN
RESORT SAIPAN CORPORATION, dba HOTEL RIVIERA SAIPAN, Defendant.

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HERE GIVEN that, pursuant to a Writ of Execution issued by the Court in this matter on August 19, 2022, Commonwealth Recorder's File no. 22-1354, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property:

Legal description of the property:

Tract 22558-R1, situated in Fina Sisu, Saipan Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 4.116 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat no. 2096/81, the original of which was registered 29 April 1982 as Document no. 14400 at the Land Registry, Saipan

Total area of the property:

4,116 square meters, more or less

Known encumbrances:

A Mortgage dated 12 October 2000 executed by Changshin Resort Saipan Corporation dba Hotel Riviera Resort Club, Mortgagor, to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Mortgage, submitted on 02 October 2000 in Civil Action no. 97-5470 in the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; a Mortgage dated 03 January 2007 and recorded on 02 February 2007 under File no. 07-267 at the Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan, executed by Changshin Resort Saipan Corporation dba Hotel Riviera Saipan, Mortgagor, to Hyundai Securities Co., Ltd., Mortgagee; a Mortgage dated 07 March 2011 at recorded on 17 March 2011 under File no. 11-0450 at the Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan, executed by Korea Shooting Promotion Council Federation, Borrower, and Changshin Resort Saipan Corporation dba Hotel Riviera Saipan, responsibility for security, and Lee, Young Mi, Lender; a Mortgage dated 13 March 2012 and recorded on 15 March 2012 under File no. 12-0790 at the Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan, executed by Korea Shooting Promotion Council Foundation and Changshin Resort Saipan Corporation dba Hotel Riviera Saipan, Borrower, to Segipus Co., Ltd., CEO Lee, Eun Jung, Lender; a Mortgage dated 10 May 2012 and recorded on 24 July 2012 under File no. 12-1549 at the Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan, executed by Korea Shooting Promotion Council Foundation and Changshing Resort Saipan Corporation dba Hotel Riviera Saipan, Borrower, to Youn Jae Soo, Lender; and a Mortgage dated 10 May 2012 and recorded on 24 July 2012 under File no. 12-1550 at the Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan, executed by Korea Shooting Promotion Council Foundation and Changshin Resort Saipan Corporation dba Hotel Riviera Saipan, Borrower, to Youn Hee Ok, Lender. The interest of Globuil Resort Saipan Corporation is a leasehold estate created by that certain indenture of lease agreement made by Kathryn C. Villagomez, Lessor, to Chang Shin Resort Saipan Corporation, Lessee, dated 19 March 1993, and recorded 26 March 1993 under File no. 93-1046 at the Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan, demising and leasing for a term of 55 years beginning 19 March 1993 and ending 18 March 2048.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2022**, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public. Copies of a title insurance report for the properties are available to any prospective bidder upon request.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 29th day of August, 2022:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

UOG wins int'l awards in marketing and communications

The University of Guam has won 20 awards in marketing, communications, graphic design, advertising, and web presence for projects completed in 2021. This is the highest single-year award total for the UOG Marketing and Communications Office.

"All of us at UOG are incredibly proud of the out-



The UOG Marketing & Communications team and UOG Web Team hold the awards they received for projects completed in 2021 at the University of Guam 70th Anniversary Exhibit, another of the team's projects, at the Guam Museum. From left, Laura Pangelinan, Jackie Hanson, Bernie Capindo, Chief Marketing & Communications Officer Jonas Macapinlac, Gene Herrera, Eurich Patascil, and Matt Raymundo. The University of Guam 70th anniversary mural on an exterior wall of the Calvo Field House won two gold awards and one Award of Excellence from three different national awards programs.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 | FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
WEBSITE: WWW.CNIMPORTS.COM

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
**DEVELOPMENT OF ECHO DOCK
PORT OF SAIPAN**
**CPA RFP NO. CPA-RFP-010-2022
(CPA CONCESSION NO. SEA 2022-01)**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority ("Authority") is inviting qualified developers and their development teams to submit sealed proposals, subject to the terms and conditions of this Request for Proposals (the "RFP") and other contract provisions, for the development of Echo Dock, which is situated north of the Port of Saipan. The Executive Director hereby determines that the use of an Invitation for Bid is neither practical nor advantageous to the Authority because the Authority wishes to acquire services and products that cannot be evaluated by cost alone. This RFP is being issued pursuant to NMIAIC § 40-70-205.

The RFP Package is available beginning Wednesday, August 31, 2022, at the Authority's Accounting Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building, Saipan International Airport upon payment of a non-refundable administrative fee of \$200.00. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, cashier's check, or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Other than this administrative fee, proposers are not required to submit a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Authority will hold a briefing for interested parties at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, September 16, 2022, to explain the Authority's development objectives, the RFP process, and to answer questions. The meeting will be held at the Authority's Seaport Conference Room, George Fleming Building. All potential applicants are encouraged to attend but it is not mandatory.

All proposers are requested to pay attention to the following significant dates and times:

Date RFP Package becomes available	August 31, 2022 (8:00 AM)
Date of RFP briefing meeting	September 16, 2022 (10:00 AM)
Deadline to submit Notice of Intent	September 28, 2022 (4:00 PM)
Deadline to submit Statement of Qualifications	October 13, 2022 (4:00 PM)
Notification of qualified applicants of the RFP	October 28, 2022
Deadline for RFP submission	November 30, 2022 (4:00 PM)

Qualified proposers shall submit their sealed proposals to the "CPA Evaluation Committee" and mark the outside cover of its submittal as follows: "RFP Proposal: Confidential - Development of the Echo Dock, Saipan (RFP-010-2022)." Five (5) hard copies and one electronic copy on CD, DVD, or flash drive of the proposal must be submitted no later than **4:00 p.m. CHST, Wednesday, November 30, 2022**, to the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. Proposals submitted by facsimile (fax) transmission will not be considered. Any proposals received after the proposal submittal deadline shall be returned to the proposer unopened. The Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted if sufficient justification exists that awarding the project would not be in the best interest of the CPA.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:
/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date 8/26/2022

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 | FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
WEBSITE: WWW.CNIMPORTS.COM

**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS
FOR ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES**
**FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAI PAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
BUS PARKING CANOPY REPAIRS
PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-004-22**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority's (CPA) is a public corporation and autonomous agency of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). In accordance with its Procurement Rules and Regulations, CPA is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Architectural and Engineering (A/E) Design Services for repairs to the bus parking canopy repairs at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, Project No. CPA-SA-004-22.

The project is being funded by the Commonwealth Ports Authority and is in accordance and compliance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations, Section 40-50-202, Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Administration Office, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package. Electronic copies may be made available upon written request to Ms. Wendi Prater at wprater@cnimports.com or Ms. Sheri Llagas at cpa.receptionist@pticom.com.

Questions regarding this request for RFQ statements shall be submitted to Ms. Prater, CPA's Executive Assistant/Project Manager, via email to wprater@cnimports.com or hand delivered to the CPA Administration Office, by no later than **5:00 p.m. CHST, local time, Wednesday, September 21, 2022**.

The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria available in the RFQ package.

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **5:00 p.m. CHST, MONDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2022**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date 8/24/2022

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport
P.O. Box 501055 Saipan MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 | Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail: cpa.admin@pticom.com
Website: WWW.CNIMPORTS.COM

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 05-2022

Opening date: August 15, 2022
Location: SAIPAN
Positions: (1) ARFF General Maintenance
(1) ARFF Mechanic II
(1) ARFF Mechanic III

Location: TINIAN
Positions: (2) General Maintenance I

SALARY
PL 2/1 to 2/12 (\$7.63/hr. to \$13.04/hr.)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the **CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport**. Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check, and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than 5:00 P.M. on Friday, September 02, 2022.

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin. Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.tenorio@cnimports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

**AIRTRAFFIC CONTROL TOWER
SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-004-22**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (the "CPA") is now accepting sealed bids, subject to the terms and conditions of this Invitation for Bid (the "IFB") and other contract provisions, for bids from individuals, firms, company or corporations to provide Janitorial Services at the Air Traffic Control Tower, Saipan International Airport. The successful bidder will be awarded a two (2) year contract with option to renew for an additional 2 years at the sole discretion of the CPA.

This IFB is issued pursuant to Chapter 40-50, Procurement Rules and Regulations of Title 40 of the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (the "NMIAIC"). Title 40, including chapter 40-50-205, Invitation for Bids, is applicable to the process followed by the IFB.

Bid Package will be available for pick up beginning August 24, 2022, upon payment of fifty (\$50.00) dollars in cash, cashier's check or certified check to the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building, Saipan International Airport.

Bids will be received at the office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport until **2:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, Friday, September 23, 2022**.

Bids are to be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked:

"Bids: Janitorial Services at the Air Traffic Control Tower, Project No. CPA-IFB-004-22, CONFIDENTIAL."

Please submit one original and two copies of your bid to the CPA Executive Director's Office mentioned above.

CPA reserves the right to reject any or all bids submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Invitation for Bid; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest. All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

August 24, 2022
DATE

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

standing work by our MarCom team," said UOG President Thomas W. Krise. "Their creativity and execution have been recognized year after year as exemplary among our peers — not only in higher education and government, but also by contemporaries within marketing, communications, and web design. The praise and awards they've won have also highlighted the excellent work of Tritons across the University."

UOG won awards across multiple categories from four different competitions.

CASE Circle of Excellence Awards

This year, UOG won its first two Circle of Excellence Awards from the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE), a coveted awards program in higher education advancement and marketing. UOG's nominations were among 4,500 entries from 28 countries and across 100 award categories.

One judge stated about the gold award-winning UOG 70th Anniversary Mural: "This was a clear favorite among the judges with high marks across the board. The mural project hit on every level: high impact, beautiful execution, cultural significance, and immediate connection with its audience."

The mural was commissioned and painted by UOG fine arts alumnus and professional muralist Austin Domingo.

NAGC Awards

This year, UOG received three first-place Blue Pencil & Gold Screen Awards and one Award of Excellence from the National Association of Government Communicators. The

NAGC awards program recognizes superior government communication products.

"This publication is extremely well done with graphic consistency and focused writing," said one of the judges about the "Research at the University of Guam" report, which took first place in technical and statistical reports. "The quality of the publication encourages partnerships and support—the entire goal of its existence. Great deliverable!"

Internet Advertising Awards

UOG won eight Internet Advertising Awards, including two overall "Best of Show" awards for its 2021 digital marketing email recruitment campaign and its online "Big G Weekly" newsletter. The IAA program is the only industry-based advertising award competition dedicated exclusively to online advertising.

Collegiate Advertising Awards

UOG also won six Collegiate Advertising Awards: three gold and three silver awards. The gold awards were received for the 2021 digital marketing email recruitment campaign, the 70th anniversary campus mural, and the matching T-shirt design based on the mural. CAA is a national program recognizing higher education organizations for excellence in communications, marketing, advertising, and promotions of their schools.

Last year, the University Marketing and Communications department brought home 11 awards to the island. To view the complete list of awards, go to url.uog.edu/marcom-awards. (PR)

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 | FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
WEBSITE: WWW.CNIMPORTS.COM

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
PROJECT NO. CPA-TS-001-22**

**TINIAN PERIMETER FENCE REPLACEMENT
TINIAN HARBOR**

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (the "CPA") is accepting sealed proposals, subject to the terms and conditions of this Request for Proposals (the "RFP") and other contract provisions, for awarding a contract for the replacement of seaport perimeter fence, Tinian Harbor, Tinian Island. The Executive Director hereby determines that the use of an Invitation for Bid is neither practical nor advantageous to the CPA because the CPA wishes to acquire services and/or products that cannot be evaluated by cost alone (NMIAIC § 40-50-225 (a)). The Scope of Work and other considerations will be available for pick up beginning **September 02, 2022**, upon payment of \$100.00 in cash, cashier's check or certified check to the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building, Saipan International Airport.

A pre-proposal conference will be held at the Tinian International Airport CPA conference room on **September 16, 2022 at 10:00 A.M.** The conference is not mandatory, but proposers submitting their proposals are requested to attend.

Proposals will be received at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd Floor-Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport no later than **4:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, OCTOBER 07, 2022**. Proposals received after the date/time indicated above will not be opened and will be returned to the Proposer.

CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest. All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

September 02, 2022

Business

US clears updated COVID boosters targeting newest variants

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. on Wednesday authorized its first update to COVID-19 vaccines, booster doses that target today's most common omicron strain. Shots could begin within days.

The move by the Food and Drug Administration tweaks the recipe of shots made by Pfizer and rival Moderna that already have saved millions of lives. The hope is that the modified boosters will blunt yet another winter surge — and help tamp down the BA.5 omicron relative that continues to spread widely.

"These updated boosters present us with an opportunity to get ahead" of the next COVID-19 wave, said FDA Commissioner Dr. Robert Califf.

Until now, COVID-19 vaccines have targeted the original coronavirus strain, even as wildly different mutants emerged. The new U.S. boosters are combination, or "bivalent," shots. They contain half that original vaccine recipe and half protection against the newest omicron versions, BA.4 and BA.5, that are considered the most contagious yet.

The combination aims to increase cross-protection against multiple variants.

"It really provides the broadest opportunity for protection," Pfizer vaccine chief Annaliesa Anderson told The Associated Press.

The updated boosters are only for people who have already had their primary vac-

cinations, using the original vaccines. Doses made by Pfizer and its partner BioNTech are for anyone 12 and older while Moderna's updated shots are for adults — if it has been at least two months since their last primary vaccination or their latest booster. They're not to be used for initial vaccinations.

There's one more step before a fall booster campaign begins: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention must recommend who should get the additional shot. An influential CDC advisory panel will debate the evidence Thursday — including whether people at high risk from COVID-19 should go first.

The U.S. has purchased more than 170 million doses from the two companies. Pfizer said it could ship up to 15 million of those doses by the end of next week. Moderna didn't immediately say how

many doses are ready to ship but that some will be available "in the coming days."

The big question is whether people weary of vaccinations will roll up their sleeves again. Just half of vaccinated Americans got the first recommended booster dose, and only a third of those 50 and older who were urged to get a second booster did so.

Here's the rub: The original vaccines still offer strong protection against severe disease and death from COVID-19 for generally healthy people, especially if they got that important first booster dose. It's not clear just how much more benefit an updated booster will bring — beyond a temporary jump in antibodies capable of fending off an omicron infection.

Still, "people have to realize this is a different kind of booster than was previously available. It will work better at

protecting against omicron," said virologist Andrew Pekosz of the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Even people who had an earlier omicron version still can get reinfected so "you should definitely go for the booster even if you've been infected in the last year," added Pekosz. He thinks "if we can get good buy-in to use this, we might really be able to make a dent" in COVID-19 cases.

The FDA cleared the modifications ahead of studies in people, a step toward eventually handling COVID-19 vaccine updates more like yearly changes to flu shots.

FDA vaccine chief Dr. Peter Marks stressed the agency considered "the totality" of evidence. Pfizer and Moderna have previously brewed vaccine doses updated to match earlier mutants — including the omicron strain named BA.1 that struck last winter — and tested them in people. Those earlier recipe changes were safe, and the BA.1 version substantially boosted virus-fighting antibodies — more than another dose of the original vaccine — although fewer than recognized today's genetically distinct BA.4 and BA.5 strains.

But instead of using those

BA.1 shots, FDA ordered the companies to brew even more up-to-date doses that target those newest omicron mutants, sparking a race to roll them out. Rather than waiting a few more months for additional human studies of that very similar recipe tweak, Marks said animal tests showed the latest update spurs "a very good immune response."

"One needs to refresh the immune system with what is actually circulating," Marks said. That's why FDA also is no longer authorizing boosters made with the original recipe for those 12 and older.

NOTICE OF AUCTION ON LEASE HOLD OF MORTGAGED PROPERTY

Civil Action No. 20-0001



Lot 002 D 31

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that under and by virtue of the judgment dated May 18, 2022, made and entered in the above entitled action by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due Plaintiff from Defendants, the court-approved auctioneer, Mr. Richard S. Villagomez, will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the 21st day of September, at 11 a.m., at the Law Offices of Michael N. Evangelista, LLC, 2nd Floor, D'Torres Building, Middle Road, Garapan, Saipan, the remaining **leasehold interest** to the premises and real estate, lying and being on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described further as follows:

Lot 002 D 31, Garapan, Saipan, (originally Lot 1, Block 16), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 002 D 00, the original of which was recorded on September 28, 1970 as Document No. 505 at Land Registry, Saipan.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:

- withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
- to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
- to reject any and all bids.

2. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding. The highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property, provided it is acceptable as the minimum starting bid to the Bank of Saipan. Bids made in advance must be in writing and addressed to Michael N. Evangelista, Attorney-at-Law, 2nd Floor, D'Torres Building, Middle Road, Garapan, Saipan, P.O. Box 504340 CK Saipan, MP 96950 or Email: mnevangelista8@gmail.com.

3. Deposit and Payment. A non-refundable guarantee deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten (10) days of the auction sale by the winning bidder, no later than 4:00 p.m. on that date, by payment to the Law Offices of Michael Norita Evangelista, LLC. The remaining balance shall be due within ten (10) calendar days from the auction sale. If the tenth calendar day falls on a weekend, then the balance shall be due that Monday after the tenth calendar day. **All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or money order.** Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in the property will revert to Bank of Saipan.

4. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and Bank of Saipan reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.

5. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Law Offices of Michael N. Evangelista, LLC., for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 25th day of August, 2022.

LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL NORITA EVANGELISTA, LLC.
/s/
Michael N. Evangelista, Esq. (Bar No. 0364)
Attorney for Plaintiff

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ., F-0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537
EMAIL: mwwhite@saipan.com
ATTORNEY FOR Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of:
JOSEPHINE TORRES CABRERA • Civil Action No.: 22-0197
HIDEO, Deceased. •

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Rebecca C. White has filed a Petition for Letters of Administration upon the Estate of Josephine Torres Cabrera Hideos, deceased; and that the said Petition will be heard by the Court on THURSDAY, October 6, 2022, at the hour of 10:00 a.m. of the said day.

NOTICE is also given to all heirs of persons having claims against the Estate of Ellary Bernard Hideos, deceased, and to all persons claiming an interest in said Estate, that they shall file such claims with the Clerk of this Court within sixty (60) days from the first publication of this Notice. Copies of such claims should be provided to Michael A. White, Esq., The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, P.O. Box 5222 CHRB, Saipan MP 96950, Attorney for Petitioner. All claims not so filed shall be forever barred.

DATED: 29 August 2022

/s/
JOSEPH N. CAMACHO, Associate Judge

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ., F-0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537
EMAIL: mwwhite@saipan.com
ATTORNEY FOR Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of:
ELLARY BERNARD HIDEOS • Civil Action No.: 22-0196
Deceased. •

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Rebecca C. White has filed a Petition for Letters of Administration upon the Estate of Ellary Bernard Hideos, deceased; and that the said Petition will be heard by the Court on THURSDAY, October 6, 2022, at the hour of 10:00 a.m. of the said day.

NOTICE is also given to all heirs of persons having claims against the Estate of Ellary Bernard Hideos, deceased, and to all persons claiming an interest in said Estate, that they shall file such claims with the Clerk of this Court within sixty (60) days from the first publication of this Notice. Copies of such claims should be provided to Michael A. White, Esq., The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, P.O. Box 5222 CHRB, Saipan MP 96950, Attorney for Petitioner. All claims not so filed shall be forever barred.

DATED: 29 August 2022

/s/
JOSEPH N. CAMACHO, Associate Judge

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 500730, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859 | Fax: (670) 234-5749
Attorney for Plaintiff Marianas Public Land Trust

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST, Plaintiff,
vs. EDWIN B. TUDELA and PATRICIA A. TUDELA, Defendants.
and PENTECOSTAL CHURCH OF CHRIST through its representative, Pastor Clariza S. Ilarde, Successor in Interest, Defendants.

TO: THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS, EDWIN B. TUDELA and PATRICIA A. TUDELA:

You have been made as Defendants in the suit filed in this Commonwealth Superior Court by Plaintiff Marianas Public Land Trust (MPLT), on its COMPLAINT FOR FORECLOSURE.

You may file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint filed against you in this action within Twenty-One (21) Days after the date of the last publication of this Summons. You must deliver or mail a copy of your answer to Robert Tenorio Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya), P.O. Box 500730, Saipan, MP 96950, or as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Court for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the office of the Clerk of Court, CNMI SUPERIOR COURT, 1st Floor, Guma Hustisla Ilimwal Aweewe, House of Justice, Susupe Village, P.O. Box 500730, Saipan MP 96950-0307. It may be prepared and signed for you by your Attorney and sent to the Clerk of Court by messenger or by mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Amended Summons, judgment by default pursuant to the court rules of the above-entitled Court may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint for Foreclosure.

SO ORDERED on this 10th day of August 2022.

/s/
Clerk of Court/Deputy Clerk

Nation

IN TRUMP DOCS PROBE Obstruction now a major focus

WASHINGTON (AP)—The FBI investigation into top-secret government information discovered at Mar-a-Lago is zeroing in on the question of whether former President Donald Trump's team criminally obstructed the probe. A new document alleges that government records had been concealed and removed and that law enforcement officials were misled about what was still there.

The allegation does not necessarily mean that Trump or anyone else will ultimately face charges. But it could pose the most direct legal threat to Trump or those in his orbit, in part because the Justice Department has historically viewed obstruction as an aggravating factor that tilts in favor of bringing charges in investigations involving the mishandling of classified information.

"It goes to the heart of trying to suborn the very integrity of our criminal justice system," said David Laufman, who once oversaw the same Justice Department counterintelligence section now responsible for the Mar-a-Lago investigation.

The latest Justice Department motion in the case is focused less on the removal last year of classified information from the White House to Mar-a-Lago and more on the events of this past spring. That's when law enforcement officials tried—unsuccessfully—to get all

documents back and were assured, falsely, that everything had been accounted for after a "diligent search."

The Justice Department issued a grand jury subpoena in May for the records, and officials visited Mar-a-Lago on June 3 to collect them. When they got there, Tuesday's department document says, they were handed by a Trump lawyer a "single Redweld envelope, double-wrapped in tape" containing documents.

A custodian for the records presented a sworn certification to the officials saying that "any and all responsive documents" to the subpoena had been located and produced. A Trump lawyer said that all records that had come from the White House had been held in one location—a storage room—and that there were none in any private space or other spot at the house.

But the FBI came to doubt the truth of those statements and obtained a search warrant to return on Aug. 8.

Officials had "developed evidence that government records were likely concealed and removed from the Storage Room and that efforts were likely taken to obstruct the government's investigation," the new Justice Department filing says.

In their August search, agents found classified documents not only in the storage room but also in the former

president's office, including three classified documents in an office desk, according to the Justice Department. In some instances, the agents and attorneys conducting the review of seized documents required additional clearances since the material was so highly classified.

"That the FBI, in a matter of hours, recovered twice as many documents with classification markings as the 'diligent search' that the former president's counsel and other representatives had weeks to perform calls into serious question the representations made in the June 3 certification and casts doubt on the extent of cooperation in this matter," the document states.

In its own filing Wednesday night, Trump's lawyers decried the search as having taken place in "the midst of the standard give-and-take" between a former president and the National Archives and Records Administration over presidential records. It said the department had "gratuitously" made public certain information, including a photograph of classified documents taken from the home.

The Justice Department has stated in court filings that, besides investigating crimes related to the mishandling of national defense information and other documents, it is also looking into whether anyone committed obstruction.

ing over the case when the deal was reached a year ago in Hussain's case, called the agreement "fundamentally flawed." It would have spared Hussain prison time, angering the families of the people killed when brake failure sent a stretch limo full of birthday revelers hurtling down a hill in 2018.

Leaky battleship in Texas completes trip for \$35M repairs

LA PORTE, Texas (AP)—It's the only surviving battleship that served in both world wars, having fought in Europe during World War I and against the Nazis and the Japanese Army during World War II. But the greatest challenge in recent years for the USS Texas has been a leaky, rusty hull that at times forced workers to pump out about 2,000 gallons (7,570 liters) of water per minute from the 110-year-old ship. To ensure the historic vessel, commonly known to Texas residents as the Battleship Texas, doesn't sink and can continue hosting visitors, the foundation in charge of its care successfully towed the ship on Wednesday from its longtime home along the Houston Ship Channel to a shipyard in Galveston for repairs. Tony Gregory, president of the Battleship Texas Foundation, said the process of pulling the ship by tugboats and getting it on its way went perfectly. He said any problems would have happened in the first 15 minutes and there were no issues.

ACROSS THE NATION

Reported sexual assaults across US military increase by 13%

WASHINGTON (AP)—Reports of sexual assaults across the U.S. military jumped by 13% last year, driven by significant increases in the Army and the Navy as bases began to move out of pandemic restrictions and public venues reopened, The Associated Press has learned. Mirroring the increase in those reports is the disclosure that close to 36,000 service members said in a confidential survey that they had experienced unwanted sexual contact—a dramatic increase over the roughly 20,000 who said that in a similar 2018 survey, U.S. defense and military officials said. The latest numbers are certain to anger lawmakers on Capitol Hill who have been critical of the Pentagon's efforts to get a handle on sexual crimes and misconduct.

Judge nixes no-prison deal in 2018 limo crash that killed 20

SCHOHARIE, N.Y. (AP)—A judge rejected a plea agreement that would have meant no prison time for the operator of a limousine company involved in a crash that killed 20 people in upstate New York. Wednesday's turnabout drew applause and tears from victims' relatives and plunged limo company boss Nauman Hussain into legal uncertainty. State Supreme Court Justice Peter Lynch, who was not presid-

Asia

UN cites possible crimes vs. humanity in Xinjiang



Residents watch a convoy of security personnel armed with batons and shields patrol through central Kashgar in western China's Xinjiang region, Nov. 5, 2017. AP

GENEVA (AP)—China's discriminatory detention of Uyghurs and other mostly Muslim ethnic groups in the western region of Xinjiang may constitute crimes against humanity, the U.N.

human rights office said in a campaign to smear China's reputation.

The report has fanned a tug-of-war for diplomatic influence with the West over the rights of the region's native Uyghurs and other ethnic groups.

The report, which Western diplomats and U.N. officials said had been all but ready for months, was published with just minutes to go in Bachelet's four-year term.

The report seeks "urgent attention" from the U.N. and the world community to rights violations in Beijing's campaign to root out terrorism.

U.N. human rights chief Michelle Bachelet, facing pressure on both sides, brushed aside multiple Chinese calls for her office to withhold the report, which follows her own, much-criticized trip to Xinjiang in May. Beijing contends the report is part of a Western

campaign to smear China's reputation.

The run-up to the report's release fueled a debate over China's influence at the world body and epitomized the on-and-off diplomatic chill between Beijing and the West over human rights, among other sore spots.

But the 48-page report comes with the imprimatur of the United Nations and its member countries—notably including rising superpower

Malaysian court to rule on graft case of jailed ex-PM's wife

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—The wife of jailed ex-Prime Minister Najib Razak arrived in court Thursday for a verdict in her corruption trial involving a 1.25 billion ringgit (\$279 million) solar energy project, just days after her husband was imprisoned over the looted 1MDB state fund.

Rosmah Mansor faces three charges of soliciting bribes and receiving 6.5 million ringgit (\$1.5 million) between 2016 and 2017 to help a company secure a project to provide solar energy panels to schools on Borneo island.

Before the verdict is delivered, the court is expected to hear an application filed Tuesday by Rosmah to dis-

qualify High Court Judge Mohamed Zaini Mazlan. Rosmah cited a loss of confidence in the judge after a 71-page document was leaked last Friday on a website that allegedly contained a guilty judgment against her. She said she was shocked to read it was not written by the judge himself but by unknown people in the court's "research unit."

Rosmah, 70, said she was not confident that the judge can be fair as he may be influenced by third parties. She is requesting Zaini to recuse himself and for a retrial by a new judge.

Malaysia's top court has slammed the action of the website, run by a blogger based in England, as "a de-

liberate act" to smear the court's reputation and has lodged a complaint with police. Police have said the leaked document was research work on the ongoing trial and not a judgment.

Last week, the court also filed a police report against the same website for publishing a document it said was the Federal Court's guilty verdict against Najib, just before the ruling was read out in court. The court has said the leaked document was a working draft of the ruling.

Najib began a 12-year prison term last week after losing his final appeal in one of the five graft cases against him involving the multibillion-dollar pilfering of 1MDB.

World

US: Russian military facing ‘severe manpower shortages’

WASHINGTON (AP)—Russia is suffering “severe manpower shortages” in its 6-month-old war with Ukraine and has become more desperate in its efforts to find new troops to send to the front lines, according to a new American intelligence finding disclosed Wednesday.

Russia is looking to address the shortage of troops in part by compelling soldiers wounded earlier in the war to return to combat, recruiting personnel from private security companies and even recruiting from prisons, according to a U.S. official who spoke to the AP on the condition of anonymity to discuss the downgraded intelligence finding.

The official added that the intelligence community has determined that one step that

Russia’s Defense Ministry is expected to take soon is recruiting convicted criminals to enlist “in exchange for pardons and financial compensation.”

The U.S. government highlighted its finding as Russian President Vladimir Putin last week ordered the Russian military to increase the number of troops by 137,000 to a total of 1.15 million.

Putin’s decree, which takes effect on Jan. 1, didn’t specify whether the military would beef up its ranks by drafting a bigger number of conscripts, increasing the number of volunteer soldiers or using a combination of both. But some Russian military analysts predicted it would rely heavily on volunteers, a cautious stand reflecting the Kremlin’s concerns about possible fallout from an

attempt to increase the draft.

The presidential decree aims to boost the overall number of Russian military personnel to 2,039,758, including 1,150,628 troops. A previous order put the military’s numbers at 1,902,758 and 1,013,628, respectively, at the start of 2018.

Colin Kahl, the U.S. Defense Department undersecretary for policy, told reporters earlier in August that the U.S.

estimates Russia took heavy casualties in the first months of the war.

“There’s a lot of fog in war, but I think it’s safe to suggest that the Russians have probably taken 70 or 80,000 casualties in the less than six months,” Kahl said. “Now, that is a combination of killed in action and wounded in action and that number might be a little lower, a little higher, but I think that’s kind of in the

ballpark.”

The U.S. has frequently downgraded and unveiled intelligence findings over the course of the grinding war to highlight plans for Russian misinformation operations or to throw attention on Moscow’s difficulties in prosecuting its war against Ukraine, whose smaller military has put up a stiff resistance against the militarily superior Russian forces.

The Biden administration

unveiled findings earlier this week that Russia has faced technical problems with Iranian-made drones acquired from Tehran this month for use in its war with Ukraine.

Russia picked up Mohajer-6 and Shahed-series unmanned aerial vehicles over several days this month as part what the Biden administration says is likely part of a Russian plan to acquire hundreds of Iranian UAVs for use in Ukraine.

WORLD BRIEFS

Gorbachev’s funeral, burial will reflect his varied legacy

MOSCOW (AP)—The funeral and burial plans for Mikhail Gorbachev sum up the crosscurrents of his legacy—final farewells are to be said in the same place where his rigid Soviet predecessors also lay, but he will be buried near men who broke the Soviet mold. Gorbachev, the Nobel Peace Prize winner who died Tuesday, is to lie in state on Saturday in Moscow’s House of Unions. The building located between the Bolshoi Theater and the Duma, the lower house of parliament, for decades held the bodies of deceased Soviet leaders, including Vladimir Lenin, Joseph Stalin, Leonid Brezhnev, Yuri Andropov and Konstantin Chernenko. All them were then interred outside the Kremlin walls—the mummified Lenin in an enormous mausoleum and the others in the nearby necropolis. But Gorbachev is to be buried in the cemetery of Novodevichy Convent, the resting place for the ousted Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev, who had criticized Stalin’s “cult of personality,” and for Boris Yeltsin, the Russian president who became the ex-USSR’s dominant leader. He is to be buried next to his wife Raisa, a demonstration of their public affection, which was such a contrast to the other leaders’ barely visible personal lives.

said, citing a military source. The Syrian government did not report any casualties. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a U.K.-based opposition war monitor, said in a statement that Israel fired four missiles targeting a runway at the Aleppo International Airport and warehouses surrounding it. The group claimed that the warehouses likely contained a shipment of Iranian rockets. Meanwhile, Syrian state media reported air defense systems in Damascus firing at what it said were Israeli missiles targeting positions south of the Syrian capital. The opposition war monitor says the Israeli airstrikes targeted military positions. No casualties were reported. (AP)

Haiti reveals ‘colossal loss’ of \$4M worth of corruption

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—A soccer field that was paid for but never built. A school that diverted resources from its students. A mayor who ran city hall out of his mother’s home and avoided property taxes. Officials say these and dozens of other alleged acts of corruption cost Haiti’s government a “colossal loss” of some 500 million gourdes (\$4 million) at a time when state infrastructure is collapsing amid political instability and deepening poverty. The allegations were released Thursday by Haiti’s antigovernment corruption unit, whose general director, Hans Joseph, pledged to go after those who “torpedo the public treasury and asphyxiate the country’s economic and social development efforts.”

Syria: Israel strikes Aleppo airport

Israel launched a missile attack on Wednesday targeting the airport in the Syrian city of Aleppo, Syrian state media

In Celebration Of His New Life

†JOSEPH JOHN MAFNAS BORJA

Affectionately Known as “JJ KOICHI”

Sunrise: October 8, 1967 Sunset: August 27, 2022

He was called by Our Heavenly Father at the age of 54.
In his new life †Joseph John will be greeted at the gates of Heaven by his:

Father: †Crispin A. Borja
Grandparents: †Jose Quitugua & †Francisca A. Borja,
 †Juan R. Mafnas, †Jose Agon &
 †Victoria Pangelinan Mafnas Concepcion
Uncles: †Jesus P. Mafnas, †Jose P. Mafnas,
 †Luis P. Castro, †JJ Jordan,
 †Toshio Minatoya, †Pedro C. Dela Cruz,
 †John Rosario
Aunties: †Maria M. Rosario, †Antonia M. Apatang,
 †Maria B. Minatoya, †Theresita B. Jordan,
 †Susana T. Mafnas
Brother: †Dwayne Mark M. Borja
Father-In-Law: †Manuel A. Indalecio
Brother-In-Law: †Frankie B. Castro

†Joseph John will be forever remembered in the hearts of his:
Mother: Theresita P. Mafnas

Wife: Fatima I. Borja
Children: Francisca S. Borja/Michael (Nalinporn, Noppawut & Annop), Crispin Joe S. Borja/Alexander Nario, Eric Jay S. Maratita, Melchor Crispin M. Borja, Mona Monique E. Indalecio/Steven Aguon (John & Natalia), Joseph John M. Borja Jr./Evelyn (Zoe), Dion Julian M. Borja, Manuel John I. Borja, Theresita Angeline I. Borja/Jose Torres, Victoria Vicenta I. Borja, and Savannah Susan I. Borja

Brothers & Sisters/Children and Grandchildren:
 Victoria B. & John C. Mafnas
 Teresa/ Carter (Vidal and Aaliyah)
 Jesus (Princeton, Luka, and Kiara) Danielle/Ted, Grace
 †Dwayne M. & Nenita H. Borja
 Ciara Delacruz/Joseph Ada- (Allan Henry),
 Agatha Borja/Frank Rran
 Ronald & Antoinette Borja Conyers
 Kaela Conyers/Kevin, Ronald Jr. Conyers

Daily mass of intention is being offered at San Antonio Church at 6 p.m. except for Sunday, 7 a.m. Last respect will be on Thursday, September 8, 2022. His remains will be escorted from CHC Morgue at 7:30 a.m. to the Mt. Carmel Cathedral. Responso Service and Holy Rosary will take place upon arrival of his remains. Followed by viewing and Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. followed by Interment Service at the Veterans Cemetery where he will be laid to a peaceful rest.

Please join us in prayers.

Thank you and Si Yu’us Ma’ase.
 Theresita Mafnas, Fatima, Children & Grandchildren.

Off The Wall

NJ man sentenced for Super Bowl ring fraud

SANTA ANA, Calif. (AP)—A New Jersey man who posed as a former New England Patriots player in order to buy and sell Super Bowl rings that he claimed were gifts to Tom Brady's family was sentenced Monday to three years in federal prison.

Scott V. Spina Jr., 25, of Roseland was sentenced by a judge in Southern California's Orange County.

In 2017, Spina bought a Patriots' 2016 Super Bowl championship ring from a Patriots player who then left the team. Prosecutors said Spina paid the player—identified only as T.J.—with at least one bad check and sold the ring for \$63,000 to an Orange County broker of championship rings.

"When Spina obtained the player ring, he also received the information that allowed the former player to purchase Super Bowl rings for family and friends that are slightly smaller than the player rings,"



A New England Patriots Super Bowl LI ring is displayed at the Super Bowl Rings exhibit in Indianapolis, March 1, 2018.

the U.S. attorney's office said in a statement.

Spina then called the company that made the rings, claimed to be the former player and ordered three family-and-friend rings with "Brady" engraved on them, claiming they were gifts for Brady's baby, prosecutors said.

"The rings were at no time authorized by Tom Brady," according to the criminal

complaint.

Spina agreed to sell the rings for \$81,500 to the same Orange County broker who bought the original ring, contending that Brady had given them to his nephews. The broker later tried to withdraw from the deal because he "started to believe that Brady did not have nephews," according to the U.S. attorney's office.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Iowa town asks: Where did we put our time capsule?

The small northwest Iowa city of Sheldon planned to make the opening of a time capsule one of the centerpiece events of its 150th anniversary this weekend, but it ran into a slight problem.

No one is sure where the time capsule is buried. "We're trying to find instructions on exactly where it's at before we just start digging," said Sheldon Chamber of Commerce Director Ashley Nordahl. "We think we know where it is, but to dig up concrete in the park when we have such a big event going on, we're just postponing that to a little bit later in the year."

The time capsule was buried 50 years ago during Sheldon's centennial celebration and over time its specific location became a bit fuzzy. Event organizers had planned to open the time capsule during a town birthday celebration Friday morning featuring birthday cake and coffee. They then planned to place new items inside the capsule and rebury it.

The other events will go on as planned, with the time capsule unveiling delayed until workers can find it. To do that, the city will hire a company with an underground radar system that helped the nearby city of Sibley find its time capsule earlier this year.

"We still have every intention of finding it and digging it up," Nordahl said. "It's just a little more involved than what we originally had planned."

Sheldon, a city of 5,178 people about 160 miles northwest of Des Moines, was founded in 1872. (AP)

Box of reptiles mailed to the wrong address in New York

PORT CHESTER, N.Y. (AP)—Several live lizards were wrongly delivered to a residence in a village north of New York City.

"Needless to say the addressee was quite startled when they opened the box," Port Chester police wrote on Facebook.

Police received the call about the reptiles just after noon on Saturday. They posted a picture on Sunday of three dark-colored lizards held in a large white container. It was not immediately clear whether there were more reptiles not pictured.

"If you lost your lizards and iguanas we have them at the police department," police wrote.

They said they held the animals until a local animal sanctuary could pick them up for safekeeping.

Detroit giant slide reopens to brave and curious; 'It hurt'

DETROIT (AP)—A giant slide in Detroit reopened Friday to people willing to see if its modified surface was a bit tamer, days after video went viral of riders getting bounced around on the bumpy ramp.

The Department of Natural Resources scrubbed the surface at Belle Isle state park, sprayed water and advised riders to lean forward in their burlap sack. Indeed, some people found the slide more comfortable than it had been.

WDIV-TV reporter Nick Monacelli told viewers in a live report that the slide was slower.

"It helps," he said of adding water. "I still don't get it, the friction, but it helps."

Video of high-flying riders last weekend has ricocheted around social media and even earned a mention on "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" It also inspired Detroit rapper Gerald Allen, who performs as Gmac Cash, to write a song.

"It's like jumping off a roof," he sang. "Man, you can lose a tooth."

Cash showed up Friday to give the slide a try. He said his eyes were closed.

"I ain't gettin' back on it. ... It was bumpy. It hurt," Cash told WDET-FM.

Science & Technology

Israeli archaeologists dig up large tusk of ancient elephant

KIBBUTZ REVADIM, Israel (AP)—Israeli archaeologists recently unearthed the titanic tusk of a prehistoric elephant near a kibbutz in southern Israel, a remnant of a behemoth once hunted by early people around half a million years ago.

The Israel Antiquities Authority announced Wednesday that the 2.5-meter (yard) long fossil belonging to the long-extinct straight-tusked elephant was found during a joint excavation with researchers from Tel Aviv University and Ben-Gurion University.

Israel Antiquities Authority prehistorian Avi Levy, who headed the dig, said it was "the largest complete fossil tusk ever found at a prehistoric site in Israel or the Near East."



An Israeli archaeologist works next to the recently discovered 2.5-meter-long tusk of an estimated 500,000-year-old straight-tusked elephant, near the city of Gedera, Israel, Wednesday, Aug. 31, 2022.

The site was dated to the late lower paleolithic period, around 500,000 years ago, based on stone tools found in the vicinity, the antiquities authority said.

Omry Barzilai, an IAA ar-

chaeologist, said the find was "very puzzling, very enigmatic" because it was not clear whether ancient people hunted the behemoth on the spot or whether they brought the felled animal's tusk to this spot.

Is Pluto a planet? It is no longer considered one, but some believe it should be.

By CLARE MULROY
USA TODAY

3. It has cleared the neighborhood around its orbit

ered in 2003

Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto. Subject to memorization in school and known as the definitive planetary lineup, Pluto was included in the list until the International Astronomical Union determined it did not meet qualifications in 2006.

Though Pluto is no longer considered a major planet, it's still beloved by the science community and regularly makes headlines. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration recently posted a technicolor photo of Pluto, created by scientists to show subtle differences between its regions.

Here's why Pluto isn't officially considered a planet anymore.

Why is Pluto not a planet?

Pluto came into the lexicon in 1930 when astronomer Clyde Tombaugh discovered it when searching for signs of a planet. It wasn't until the early 2000s that researchers began developing the qualifications for a celestial body to be considered a planet.

In 2006, the IAU voted that the definition of a planet relied on three specifications:

1. It orbits around the sun
2. It has sufficient mass so that it becomes a nearly round shape

What are dwarf planets?

Dwarf planets are smaller planets that do not meet all three categories of a planet. According to NASA, they are round in shape and orbit the sun, but don't clear their orbital path. There are currently five recognized dwarf planets in our Solar System, listed here in order of closest proximity to the Earth:

■ Ceres: Located in the Asteroid Belt between Mars and Jupiter, discovered in 1801

■ Pluto: Located in the Kuiper Belt, discovered in 1930

■ Eris: Located in the Kuiper Belt, discovered in 2003

■ Makemake: Located in the Kuiper Belt, discovered in 2005

■ Haumea: Located in the Kuiper Belt, discov-

Controversial categories

While the IAU definition of planets remains the globally adopted one, that doesn't mean it's unanimously accepted. Some planetary experts dispute the 2006 vote, saying the definitions are arbitrary. In 2018, scientist Philip Metzger from the University of Central Florida published a study that suggested the standard for classifying planets is not scientifically sound.

Metzger argues that planetary scientists use the word "planet" in a number of ways because it's a functionally useful term, and that a planet should be defined by its intrinsic properties rather than its orbit, which can change over time.

"It's more dynamic and alive than Mars," Metzger said in a UCF press release, referring to its underground ocean, multiple moons, organic compounds and multi-layer atmosphere. "The only planet that has more complex geology is the Earth."

NASA's Alan Stern also disagrees with the IAU. In an interview with Forbes, he said all dwarf planets should be considered planets for a number of reasons—one being that the Solar System contains so many asteroids that no celestial body has cleared the neighborhood of its orbit.

Life & Style

Ambitious 'Lord of the Rings' prequel hopes to slay dragons

NEW YORK (AP)—The return of dragons on the small screen has been a huge hit. Now it's time for the return of the elves and dwarves.

Amazon Studios is launching "The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power," an ambitious, years-in-the-making and very expensive salvo that will go head-to-head with another costly streaming fantasy epic: HBO's "Game of Thrones" spinoff "House of the Dragon," which recently became the most-watched series premiere in HBO history.

The series is based on J.R.R. Tolkien's writings and asides about Middle-earth's



"We say Tolkien sort of left a series of stars in the sky. Our job was to connect the dots and form the constellation and then sort of draw in between the constellations to give a little more specificity to it," said J.D. Payne, a showrunner and executive producer.

Early ones shift across the various regions of Middle-earth, our planet's imagined mythological past. Here, some 4,000 years before "The Hobbit," are elves involved with royal intrigue, dwarves who mine inside mountains, hobbitlike harfoots who are pastoral, humans who seem unusually prone to violence, and evil orcs.

Despite being set centuries before the books and films that make up the Tolkien's canon, fans of "The Lord of the Rings" will notice some familiar characters, based on the long lifespan of some of the creatures, including Galadriel, Elrond and Isildur.

Sauron, the evil force, is unseen in the first two episodes but a malevolent presence throughout.

S. Korea may conduct survey on BTS members' military duty

Second Age, which preceded the Third Age's "Lord of the Rings" and "Hobbit" films and books. Tolkien's grandson, Simon Tolkien, was a creative consultant.

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea may conduct a public survey to help determine whether to grant exemptions to mandatory military service to members of the K-pop boyband BTS, officials said Wednesday.

The issue of active military service for the band's seven members has been a hot-button topic in South Korea because its oldest member, Jin, faces enlistment in December, when he turns 30.

Defense Minister Lee Jong-sup told lawmakers that he ordered officials to implement a survey quickly. He said his ministry will also look into various other factors such as BTS's economic impact, the importance of military service and overall national interest.

Members of South Korean K-pop band BTS, V, SUGA, JIN, Jung Kook, RM, Jimin, and j-hope from left to right, pose for photographers ahead of a press conference to introduce their new single "Butter" in Seoul, South Korea, Friday, May 21, 2021.

After his comments created a stir, his ministry clarified in a statement that Lee ordered officials to examine whether such a survey is needed, rather than



take and who exactly would be surveyed. The statement said if the survey is carried out, it will be done by a third organization, not by the ministry or related authorities, to ensure fairness.

The ministry said the results would be only one of the many factors determining BTS members' military status.

By law, all able-bodied men in South Korea must serve 18-21 months in the military under a conscription system established to deal with threats from rival North Korea. But the country gives exemption to athletes, classical and traditional musicians, and ballet and other dancers who win top places in certain competitions because they are considered to have enhanced national prestige.

Slain Marine's family revives Alec Baldwin defamation suit

NEW YORK (AP)—The family of a Marine killed in Afghanistan has revived a defamation lawsuit against Alec Baldwin over comments the actor made online.

The sisters and widow of Lance Cpl. Rylee McCollum allege Baldwin subjected them to online threats and harassment after he posted and commented on a photo shared online by one of McCollum's sisters, Roice McCollum, who had been in Washington during the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection.

Baldwin had donated \$5,000 to the family after learning of the death of Rylee McCollum in a bombing at the airport in Kabul in August 2021, just weeks before his daughter was born. Baldwin had contacted Roice McCollum via Instagram, according to the lawsuit.

In January 2022, Baldwin saw that Roice McCollum posted a picture of demonstrators from former President Donald Trump's rally taken on the day Congress counted the Electoral College votes from the 2020 presidential election, according to the complaint.

Baldwin sent her a private message and confirmed she had organized the fundraiser for her brother, the lawsuit said. She responded that her participation in the protest was "perfectly legal," according to court documents.

Baldwin told Roice McCollum he would share her photo with his 2.4 million Instagram followers and wrote: "Good luck," according to the lawsuit.

New beau sets sleeping conditions for marriage

DEAR ABBY: About a year ago, I started a long-distance relationship with a widower. His wife died four years ago. He told me he slept on the couch a long time and got very little sleep after her death, because he couldn't stand sleeping alone. He has two dogs and had never allowed them on the bed. He finally decided to try sleeping in the bed with the dogs, and was then able to sleep.

I have visited him several times, and he doesn't want to sleep with me. We have discussed marriage. When I told him I want us to sleep together, he said he wants us to continue sleeping in separate rooms/beds after we are married. I don't want that. We have a great relationship except for this.

Am I being unreasonable? I feel like I'd be taking second place to his dogs, and I'm hurt that he would rather sleep with them. I told him how I feel, but he doesn't want to compromise. I don't know if I am wasting my time with him or not. I'm afraid if I insist on it, he will think I am being too pushy and break off our relationship.

GOING TO THE DOGS

DEAR GOING: Could it be that he doesn't want another woman sleeping in the bed he shared with his late wife? Ask him that question. If that's his problem, buying a new bed would solve it. However, if it isn't and being forced to

sleep separately would feel personally demeaning, then this isn't the man for you.

P.S. When a couple is discussing marriage, NO question should be considered "too pushy."

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I have two beautiful adult daughters. The older one is who I'm having issues with. She treats me like someone she wishes she didn't know. She and her husband plan vacations with his family and never think of including me. When I asked her why, her response was, "Mom, you're always broke and you embarrass me." I'm on disability and yes I'm loud, but that's because I'm hard of hearing.

I love my daughter with all my heart, and it kills me how she treats me. She lives on the West Coast, while I live in South Carolina. I can't even get her to come visit me. She and her husband prefer visiting his family, who live on the Northeast coast. I don't know what to do. My younger daughter doesn't treat me that way. Please help.

HEARTBROKEN DOWN SOUTH

DEAR HEARTBROKEN: Your older daughter not only lacks compassion, but her values are seriously out of whack. That she would blame you for having limited finances or being hard of hearing is shameful. According to the NIH, 15% of adults over the age of 18 have some

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



hearing trouble. Nearly 25% of those between 65 and 74 have it as well. If you are 75 or over, it's 50%. So, PLEASE dry your tears and concentrate on the child who loves and treats you well, because the daughter about whom you have written isn't likely to change. You will have a happier life if you accept that fact and move forward.

■■■

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson

Garfield®



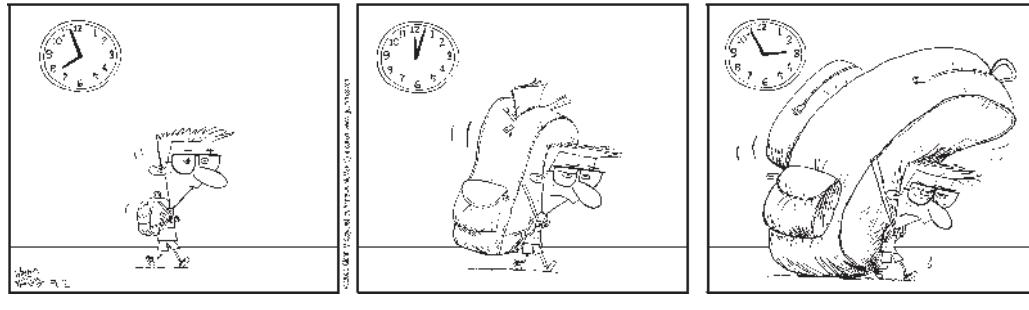
By Jim Davis

Adam@home



By Bryan Basset

The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

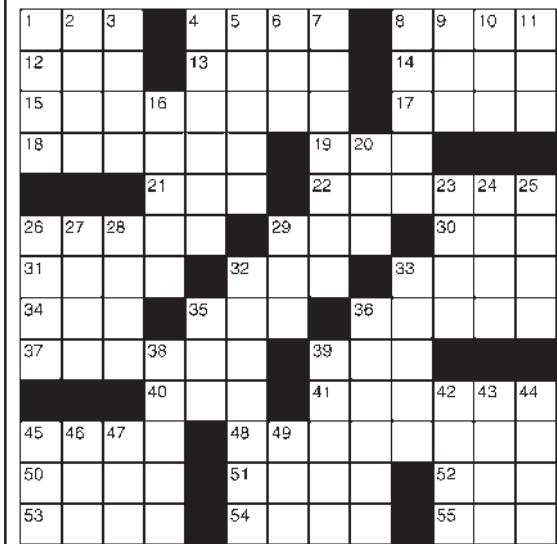
By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS		35	Kilmer	11	Donkey	11	L-P link	16	Corvette	quartet
1	Science room		of "Top Gun"							
4	Novelist Waugh	36	Paper packs		1	1	Lingerie trim	20	By means of	
8	Baby carriage	37	Severe		2	2	Cumming or Bates	23	Notion	
12	Mode lead-in	39	"Great Expectations" lad		3	3	Cave creatures	24	Streetcar	
13	"Break My Heart" singer Dua	40	Hosp. areas		4	4	Sets straight	25	Towel word	
14	Deserve	41	Dodges		5	5	Property claims	26	Employer	
15	Most spiteful	45	Fresh		6	6	Mini-albums, for short	27	Landed	
17	Erie's style	48	California island		7	7	Tree with pods	28	Jet type	
18	Naval rank	50	March Madness gp.		8	8	Bicycle part	29	Baseball's Hodges	
19	Director DuVernay	51	Skater's leap		9	9	"Norma —"	32	MRI's kin	
21	Hosp. workers	52	Dijon denial		10	10	Lob's path	33	Neighbor of Tibet	
22	Frasier's ex-wife	53	Undecided					35	TiVo precursor	
26	Hay bundles	54	Legendary loch					36	Foes	
29	Transcript no.							38	Hawkeye	
30	Dr. of hip-hop							39	"For — sake!"	
31	Spanish cheers							42	Actress Merrill	
32	Espionage org.							43	Eve's grandson	
33	Close							44	Without	
34	"Diamonds" singer							45	Busy insect	
								46	Sgt., for one	
								47	Corn spike	
								49	Chopper	

Solution time: 25 mins.



Yesterday's answer 9-2



For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

STUMPED?

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Zedd, 33; Tiffany Hines, 39; Salma Hayek, 56; Mark Harmon, 71.

Happy Birthday: Take nothing for granted. Reclaim what's rightfully yours and keep moving forward. Speak on your behalf, and make your decisions clear to those trying to redirect your every move. Don't hold back regarding your beliefs, concerns and plans to make a difference. Do things your way, and do what's best for you and those you love. Your numbers are 9, 14, 20, 26, 35, 42, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You'll have big ideas and the energy to turn what you want to pursue into a reality. A physical change will gain praise from peers and encourage you to make a difference. A financial gain is heading your way. **★★★★**

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): A change will lift your spirits and give you hope for a brighter future. Participate in events encouraging you to get involved in your community or an organization you belong to, and you'll make a difference and gain support from fellow members. **★★★★**

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Take any challenge you face, and implement rules that will offset negativity and setbacks. Set standards by initiating positive alternatives that encourage healthy lifestyle changes and friendships with people who can help you reach your goal. Romance is on the rise. **★★★★**

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Keep your thoughts and plans to yourself. Focus on what puts a smile on your face and brings you closer to someone who shares your concerns.

Don't limit what you can do to help. Socialize with people who offer unique solutions. **★★★**

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Use your physical attributes to bring about positive change. Reorganize your space and get rid of items you no longer need. An opportunity to learn or to update your skills will encourage you to help others. Share intentions with someone you love. **★★**

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Think matters through, and don't let anyone interfere with your plans. Welcome those who want to join forces with you. An emotional change will help put you in a positive frame of mind. Romance will bring you closer to someone you love. **★★★★**

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Tidy up loose ends. Be creative in approaching work, handling expenses and investments, and staying on top of your health and emotional well-being. The solutions you suggest will be well received and help you establish the best way to move forward. **★★★★**

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Plan to do something new and exciting. The people you meet along the way will encourage you to make changes, but don't do anything that may put restrictions on you. It's time to please yourself instead of trying to make everyone else happy. **★★★★**

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Acknowledge what others do, but don't be a follower because someone pressures you. Trust and believe in yourself, and arrange to do something that makes you feel good about how you look or what you know and can contribute. **★★★★**

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Keep your thoughts and plans to yourself. Focus on what puts a smile on your face and brings you closer to someone who shares your concerns.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY



COURTESY 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Finish what you start. A change that allows you to enjoy your space and those you love will put your mind at ease and bring you comfort and joy. Live life your way, and take responsibility for your happiness. **★★★★**

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Refuse to let anyone stand in your way. Look at your objective and set up a schedule conducive to completing things on time and to your satisfaction. An energetic approach will impress someone special and bring you closer together. **★★★★**

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Consider how you can get ahead financially. A plan that offers the lifestyle you want will give you something to work toward and look forward to achieving. A romantic gesture will bring you closer to someone you love. Share your intentions and plans. **★★**

Birthday Baby: You are quick-witted, aggressive and disciplined. You are sensitive and creative.

•: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ♦♦: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ♦♦♦: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ♦♦♦♦: Aim high; start new projects. ♦♦♦♦♦: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

7		3	2			1			
5					9				
2			6		3				
	8					9			
5		3				6			
9				7					
3	2					7			
9				1					
4			6	8			2		
5									

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

5	9	8	4	2	7	3	6	1
4	6	1	3	9	5	2	8	7
3	2	7	6	8	1	9	5	4
2	7	6	9	1	4	5	3	8
1	8	5	2	6	3	7	4	9
9	3	4	5	7	8	6	1	2
6	5	9	1	4	2	8	7	3
8	4	2	7	3	6	1	9	5
7	1	3	8	5	9	4	2	6

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9/2

Adjust, Alarm, Alert, Beam, Blue, Boost, Bright, Building, Bulbs, Change, Charm, Computer, Concerts, Dark, Dine, Effects, Energy, Features, Flashing, Fluorescent, Garden, Green, House, Illuminate, Intensity, Lamps, Neon, Night, Panic, Power, Reduce, Remote, Room, Screen, Service, Settings, Shift, Show, Soft, Strobe, Style, Switch, System, Test, Timer, Toy Yesterday's Answer: Raising Trump

To purchase Jo's Jewels Collector's Edition, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480.

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

IT'S LIGHTS UP

Solution: 7 letters

R	R	E	W	O	P	S	W	H	S	Y	E	T	R
A	E	G	B	S	B	O	O	S	T	G	G	H	E
L	D	T	A	L	A	M	P	S	R	N	G	M	H
E	U	J	U	R	H	I	E	A	I	I	I	E</	

Lux helps Dodgers edge Mets in matchup of division leaders



N E W
Y O R K
(A P) —

Gavin Lux and the Los Angeles Dodgers quieted Timmy Trumpet at least for now, edging the New York Mets 4-3 Tuesday night in a matchup of NL division leaders.

The Mets lost with Trumpet, who performs Edwin Diaz's entrance song "Narco," at Citi Field and ready to blare away if the closer got into the game. But Diaz didn't get in and Trumpet instead played a more muted version of "Take Me Out To The Ballgame" on his horn in front of the Dodgers' dugout during the seventh-inning stretch.

"That's pretty impressive," said Dodgers outfielder Joey Gallo, who was watching from the dugout. "I know I can't play an instrument like that. That's pretty cool."

Minutes after the Mets lost in the first major league game the Australian-born Trumpet had attended, he tweeted that he'll be back at the ballpark Wednesday night, hoping for another chance to sound off.

"To be completely honest, I think everybody enjoys that entrance, watching it," said grinning Dodgers reliever Jake Reed, who earned his first big league save with a scoreless ninth. "Obviously, we don't want to see it while we're here."

Lux drove in three runs, including a tiebreaking single in the seventh inning. The hit drove in Freddie Freeman and came immediately after Joely Rodriguez (0-4) intentionally walked pinch-hitter Will Smith.

The Dodgers won despite stranding 12 runners, one shy of their season high, and leaving the bases loaded in the sixth and seventh.

"We pushed through," manager Dave Roberts said of his Dodgers, who arrived in New York early Tuesday morning following a 10-inning win over the Miami Marlins. "If you're here, you might as well try to win the game. Our guys had that mindset and we scored enough."

Heath Hembree (3-0), making his Dodgers debut, earned the win by stranding a pair of runners in the sixth, when he whiffed James McCann for the final out.

Reed, Los Angeles' fifth pitcher, notched the save in the ninth, when he allowed a lead-off single to Eduardo Escobar before getting Daniel Vogelbach to hit into a double play and retiring Brandon Nimmo on a comebacker.

Yankees 7, Angels 4

In Anaheim, Calif., Aaron Judge hit a three-run shot for his 51st homer of the season,



Thompson and five singles in eight innings.

Hector Neris earned his third save in six opportunities.

Dane Dunning (3-7) lost for the first time since June 29. Dunning gave up three runs, two earned, on seven hits and three walks in five innings.

Diamondbacks 12, Phillies 3

In Phoenix, Zac Gallen stretched his scoreless streak to 34 1/3 innings, and Jake McCarthy homered and had five RBIs as Arizona routed Philadelphia.

Gallen (10-2) had the Phillies off balance all night, allowing two hits with seven strikeouts in seven innings.

The Diamondbacks tagged Aaron Nola (9-11) for five runs in the second inning and McCarthy put them up 8-0 with a three-run homer in the fourth. Touted rookie Corbin Carroll added a two-run double in the eighth off infielder Nick Maton.

Arizona had a season-high 17 hits for its seventh straight win over the Phillies.

Gallen is 6-0 with a 0.72 ERA in his last eight starts and has not lost since June 10.

Earlier in the day, the Diamondbacks exercised the club option on manager Torey Lovullo's contract for 2023.

Padres 4, Giants 3

In San Francisco, Blake Snell allowed four hits over six innings and Trent Grisham hit a two-run homer to lead San Diego over San Francisco.

Snell (6-7) struck out eight and rebounded from a shaky start against Cleveland last time out. In three starts versus San Francisco this season, the left-hander has held the Giants to two runs and struck out 27 over 17 2/3 innings.

The Padres extended their lead for the National League's third wild card to three games over Milwaukee, and they pulled within a half-game of Philadelphia for the second spot.

The floundering Giants committed four errors and lost their sixth in a row. They entered this series hoping to make up ground on San Diego, but instead have fallen 9 1/2 games back for the NL's final postseason spot.

Logan Webb (11-8) took the loss despite allowing just one unearned run over 5 2/3 innings.

George Kirby (6-3) allowed only two hits in five scoreless innings. Chris Flexen pitched four innings of relief for his first save.

Matt Manning (1-2) gave up seven runs and seven hits in 2 1/3 innings.

Astros 4, Rangers 2

In Arlington, Texas, Jose Altuve homered to back Framber Valdez, who won his sixth straight decision as Houston beat Texas.

Joc Pederson hit a two-run homer in the ninth for the Giants before Nick Martinez nailed down his fourth consecutive save since replacing struggling Josh Hader as San Diego's closer.

Rays 7, Marlins 2

In Miami, José Siri homered,

doubled and drove in two runs as Tampa Bay beat Miami after All-Star pitcher Shane McClanahan was scratched due to injury.

Siri also singled, scored three runs and made a leaping catch at the wall in center field to rob Jon Berti of an extra-base hit in the sixth inning.

Randy Arozarena had three hits, including his 18th homer. The Rays have won 13 of 17.

Shawn Armstrong subbed for McClanahan and threw three scoreless innings of three-hit ball. JT Chargois (2-0) pitched the fourth, and five relievers followed.

Marlins starter Jesus Lizardo (3-6) allowed five runs — three earned — and six hits in six innings.

Pirates 4, Brewers 2

In Milwaukee, Oneil Cruz went 2 for 4 with two RBIs and scored the go-ahead run in the eighth inning as Pittsburgh beat Milwaukee.

Manny Bañuelos (1-1) earned the win with 1 1/3 innings of shutout relief.

Chase De Jong worked out of trouble in the ninth for his first career save.

Cruz scored when Rodolfo Castro drew a bases-loaded walk from Brad Boxberger (3-3). He added a run-scoring double in the ninth.

Royals 9, White Sox 7

In Chicago, rookie Nick Pratto hit two home runs to highlight a career-high four-hit performance and Kansas City sent Chicago to its fifth straight loss.

White Sox manager Tony La Russa missed the game because of an unspecified medical issue. Gavin Sheets homered twice and drove in five runs for Chicago.

Salvador Perez and Michael A. Taylor each homered and drove in three runs for the Royals.

Pratto hit solo home runs in each of his first two at-bats against Lucas Giolito (10-8).

Jose Cuas (3-2) relieved Brady Singer and pitched 1 1/3 scoreless innings.

Athletics 10, Nationals 6

In Washington, Sean Murphy hit a grand slam in the fifth inning and Oakland beat Washington.

Murphy added two singles and drove in five runs for Oakland, which has won three straight.

Cole Irvin (7-11) labored through 5 1/3 innings for the win, allowing five runs on nine hits.

Washington starter Erick Fedde (5-9) didn't make it out of the third inning, giving up six runs on nine hits.

Los Angeles Dodgers' Gavin Lux watches his RBI single against the New York Mets during the seventh inning of a baseball game Tuesday, Aug. 30, 2022, in New York.

and New York snapped its three-game losing streak with a victory over Los Angeles.

Judge connected for the second straight night at Angel Stadium, driving a high fastball from Mike Mayers (1-1) into the elevated right-field stands.

Judge had three hits and scored two runs. Andrew Benintendi and Anthony Rizzo hit early solo homers for New York, which lost starter Jameson Taillon to a bruised right forearm when he was hit by a line drive to end the second inning.

Six Yankees relievers finished, and 27-year-old rookie Greg Weissert (1-0) earned his first major league win.

Max Stassi and Mike Ford homered for the Angels, whose four-game winning streak ended. Shohei Ohtani doubled and singled in his third consecutive multi-hit game.

Guardians 5, Orioles 1

In Cleveland, Cal Quantrill combined with three relievers for a one-hitter, rookie center fielder Will Benson made a pair of terrific leaping catches at the wall and AL Central-leading Cleveland beat Baltimore.

Ramón Urias singled in the second inning off Quantrill (11-5) for the Orioles' only hit. Quantrill worked six innings and extended his career-best winning streak to seven.

Josh Naylor hit a two-run homer and Steven Kwan had a two-run double for Cleveland.

Spenser Watkins (4-5) gave up five runs in 4 2/3 innings and lost his fourth start in a row.

Reds 5, Cardinals 1

In Cincinnati, Austin Romine

hit a two-run homer as Cincinnati roughed up Dakota Hudson and ended St. Louis' three-game winning streak.

Cardinals slugger Albert Pujols went 0 for 2 and was hit by pitch. Pujols remained at 694 home runs, two behind Alex Rodriguez for fourth on the all-time list.

Hudson (7-7) went 4 2/3 innings, giving up nine hits and five runs with one walk. Reds reliever Derek Law (1-1) allowed one hit over two innings.

Rockies 3, Braves 2

In Atlanta, C.J. Cron drove in two runs, José Ureña out-pitched Max Fried, and Colorado handed Atlanta its third straight loss.

Ureña (3-5) gave up two runs and six hits with two walks and a season-high six strikeouts in five innings.

Fried (12-5) allowed three runs — two earned — and seven hits with one walk and three strikeouts in five innings.

Daniel Bard got three outs to earn his 28th save in 31 chances.

Twins 10, Red Sox 5

In Minneapolis, Nick Gordon hit his first-ever grand slam and drove in a career-high six runs as Minnesota beat Boston.

Jake Cave and Gary Sánchez also homered for the Twins, who won their fifth straight.

Michael Fulmer (5-5) worked 1 1/3 innings of relief with two strikeouts.

Kutter Crawford (3-6) surrendered five runs — four earned — on four hits and four walks in 4 1/3 innings for Boston, which has lost seven of nine.

Blue Jays 5, Cubs 3

In Toronto, Teoscar Hernández hit a three-run homer, Vladimir Guerrero Jr. also went deep Toronto beat Chicago.

Kevin Gausman (10-9) pitched six solid innings to win his second straight decision as the Blue Jays won back-to-back games after losing their previous three.

Willson Contreras and Christopher Morel hit solo home runs for the Cubs, but Contreras left in the sixth inning with an apparent leg injury.

Jordan Romano wrapped it up for his 28th save in 32 chances.

Brendon Little (0-1) made his big league debut when he replaced Marcus Stroman in the sixth but gave up Hernández's homer before recording an out.

Mariners 9, Tigers 3

In Detroit, Cal Raleigh sparked a six-run third with a solo homer and capped it with a sacrifice fly as Seattle beat Detroit.

Ty France and Carlos Santana also homered for Seattle, which has won four of five.

George Kirby (6-3) allowed only two hits in five scoreless innings. Chris Flexen pitched four innings of relief for his first save.

Matt Manning (1-2) gave up seven runs and seven hits in 2 1/3 innings.

Astros 4, Rangers 2

In Arlington, Texas, Jose Altuve homered to back Framber Valdez, who won his sixth straight decision as Houston beat Texas.

Valdez (14-4) gave up solo homers to Texas rookies Ezequiel Duran and Bubba

Yankees 7, Angels 4

In Anaheim, Calif., Aaron Judge hit a three-run shot for his 51st homer of the season,

Serena beats No. 2 seed Kontaveit at US Open

NEW YORK (AP)—Serena Williams can call it “evolving” or “retiring” or whatever she wants. And she can be coy about whether or not this U.S. Open will actually mark the end of her playing days. Those 23 Grand Slam titles earned that right.

If she keeps playing like this, who knows how long this farewell will last?

No matter what happens once her trip to Flushing Meadows is over, here is what is important to know after Wednesday night: The 40-year-old Williams is still around, she’s still capable of terrific tennis, she’s still winning — and, like the adoring spectators whose roars filled Arthur Ashe Stadium again — she’s ready for more.

Williams eliminated No. 2 seed Anett Kontaveit 7-6 (4), 2-6, 6-2 in the U.S. Open’s second round to ensure that she will play at least one more singles match at what she’s hinted will be the last tournament of her illustrious career.

“There’s still a little left in me,” Williams said with a smile during her on-court interview, then acknowledged during her post-match news conference: “These moments are clearly fleeting.”



After beating 80th-ranked Danka Kovinic in straight sets Monday, then collecting her 23rd victory in her past 25 matches against someone ranked Nos. 1 or 2 against Kontaveit on Wednesday, the six-time champion at Flushing Meadows will play Friday for a spot in the fourth round.

Her opponent will be Ajla Tomljanovic, a 29-year-old Australian who is ranked 46th. They’ve never met, but Tomljanovic, who said she considers herself a Williams fan, figures she knows what to anticipate from the American — and from those in the seats.

“I was playing on Court 7 both of my matches so far at the same time as her, and I could hear the crowd. I’m like, ‘Court 7 isn’t that close.’ I kept thinking, ‘Oh, my God, that’s annoying me and I’m not even playing against her,’” Tomljanovic said. “I don’t know how I’m going to do it.”

Making Williams’ potential path possibly simpler if she can get past Tomljanovic: 2021 U.S. Open runner-up Leylah Fernandez and 2021 French Open champion Barbora Krejcikova both lost.

On Wednesday, Williams hit serves at up to 119 mph,



Serena Williams, of the United States, reacts after beating Anett Kontaveit, of Estonia, in the second round of the U.S. Open tennis championships, Wednesday, Aug. 31, 2022, in New York.

stayed with Kontaveit during lengthy exchanges of big swings from the baselines and conjured up some of her trademark brilliance when it was needed most.

After pulling out a tight first set, then faltering in the second, Williams headed to the locker room for a bathroom break before the third.

Something had to give, someone had to blink.

When they resumed, it was Williams who lifted her

level and emerged as the better player.

Just as she’s done so many times, on so many stages, with so much at stake.

“I’m just Serena. After I lost the second set, I thought, ‘Oh, my goodness, I better give my best effort because this could be it,’” Williams said, surely echoing the thoughts of everyone paying any attention.

“I never get to play like this — since ’98, really,” she said. “Literally, I’ve had an ‘X’ on my back since ’99,” the year she claimed her first Grand Slam title at the U.S. Open at age 17.

Whatever rust accumulated

when Williams missed about a year of action before returning to the tour in late June appears to have vanished. She was 1-3 in 2022 entering the U.S. Open.

“Now it’s kind of coming together,” Williams said. “I mean, it had to come together today.”

Williams has doubles to play, too. She and her sister, Venus, have won 14 major championships as a team and will begin that event Thursday night.

Kontaveit, a 26-year-old from Estonia, is a powerful hitter in her own right, the sort that spread across women’s tennis over the past two decades after a pair of siblings

from Compton, California, changed the game.

But there’s a caveat attached to Kontaveit’s ranking: She has never won so much as one quarterfinal match at any Grand Slam tournament in 30 career appearances.

So maybe that’s why, much like with Kovinic 48 hours earlier, Williams’ opponent was introduced just by her name, and Kontaveit walked out to a smattering of applause. Williams, in contrast, got the full treatment: highlight video, a listing of her many accolades and a loud greeting from folks part of the largest U.S. Open attendance ever at a night session, 29,959, eclipsing the record set Monday.

“It was her moment,” said Kontaveit, who began crying during the Estonian portion of her news conference and cut it short. “Of course, this is totally about her.”

As strident a competitor as tennis, or any sport, has seen, as rightly self-confident in her abilities as any athlete, Williams was not about to think of this whole exercise as merely a celebration of her career.

She came to New York wanting to win, of course.

Wearing the same glittery crystal-encrusted top and diamond-accented sneakers — replete with solid gold shoelace tags and the word “Queen” on the right one, “Mama” on the left — that she sported Monday, Williams was ready for prime time.

beautiful country!” she said.

Savita, meanwhile, is enjoying their trip to Peruvian capital.

“So far, Peru has been a fun experience,” she said.

Joining the three in Peru is Northern Marianas Swimming Federation president Colin Thompson, who is representing Oceania Swimming.

SWIMMERS

From Page 24

coach Sikkel

Thompson seemed to agree with the Saipan Swim Club coach that Day 1 of the Junior World Championships was an uneven start.

“The first day of competition is always the hardest

because you’re new to the arena and a majority of your nerves are riled up. I’m glad I got my first event, which was the 100m backstroke, done...I have yet the chance to see much of Peru as I have been spending the entirety of my day going from the pool to the hotel. Hopefully once all our events are over we will have time to explore this

beautiful country!” she said.

Savita, meanwhile, is enjoying their trip to Peruvian capital.

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CHAMPI

From Page 24

Villacanas, who hails from Negros Occidental in the Philippines, attributed his sustained success in his division to a renewed commitment to practice and a new diet.

“As always I try to practice in the course as much as I can before the monthly race. I also try to eat less so I could be lighter in the jumps. If you’re heavy it’s harder to make the jumps,” he said in Filipino.

In the Mini I Class, Stan-

ley Iakopo swept both heats to finish with 50 points. Harley Susulin was second with 44 points.

Vicente Palacios ruled the Mini II Class with his 47 points followed by Billie Pangelinan and Leighton Palacios with 41 points and 40 points, respectively.

In the Big Boy ATV Class, Christian “Hollywood” Camacho was again perfect with 50 points. Henry Camacho Sr. was second with 44 points with Rex Susulin taking third with 40 points.

ruled by Aldan as she batted in 10, followed by Rosie Saralu and Mardina Kaipat with nine, Kayla Kaipat and Bert Camacho with seven, Keyona Tudela with six, and Erin Mendiola and Sonia Isaac with five apiece.

Only two categories were topped by other players with Erica Tenorio of the Hot Shots leading the way with her .750 batting average. She stood in 12 at-bats with nine connected hits. Kiana Camacho is right behind her with a .647 batting average in 17 at-bats and 11 hits.

Sonia Isaac of Kosebakl is in third with her .643 batting average with nine hits in 14 at-bats. Bert Camacho comes in next with .632 with 12 hits out of 19 at-bats, followed by teammates Kiana Aldan with .611, 11 hits in 18 at-bats. Erin

Mendiola is tied with Allannah Sablan with .583 in seven hits during 12 at-bats.

In the triples category, Rosie Saralu and Keyona Tudela collected two each, followed by Kiana Aldan, Kiana Camacho, Rachel Salalila, Koko Laniyo, Keolani Rios, Edilyn Benjamin, Joyce Taro, and Daisy Kaipat with one each respectively.

Moreover, the Queens remain royalty in defense as well as their pitcher, Bert Camacho tops the pitching leaders category. She has played four games, pitched 32 innings, has seven earned runs, with 40 hits against her, is currently at four games won with no loss, and has an earned run average of 1.53.

Jennie Scallem has the most

by Bert Camacho with 22, Felisa Brel with 10, Eileen Babauta and Semerina Simram with nine, and Analyn Olupumar with five.

Over in the men’s division, Man Amigos and Asahi players lead in four categories.

Eric Palacios of Man Amigos is still the current home run king with eight, followed by Pete Sablan with five, Dominic Hideo, Mario Aguon, and John Terlaje with four, and eight players are tied with three home runs.

Palacios leads the RBI column with 22, Dominic Hideo and John Terlaje tied with 15, Jeff Cruz with 14, Pete Sablan with 12, and Bill Camacho with 10.

Hideo of Asahi leads the

most runs with 15, followed by Eric Palacios at 13, and Dennis Cruz, Hideo tied with 12.

Tim Wesley tops the doubles category with four, followed by Audie Maratita, Cartfeld Sablan, Mario Aguon, Greg Magofna, Dennis

Cruz, Ton Pangelinan, Payton Sakuma, Hector Efraim, Rodney Camacho with three each.

Mike Tomokane leads the way in triples, followed by Mark Villagomez with two, and 10 players are tied with one each.

The pitching leader so far is John Diaz of the Ngaraard Redmen with two games, 12 innings pitched, three earned runs, 18 hits, is 1-1 in the win-loss column, and has an ERA of 1.75. Kuich Damian is second with a 3.74 ERA in three games pitched, 13.1 innings played, and seven earned runs and 28 hits, while Jerry Guerrero is at third with a 4.08 ERA in two games pitched, 12 innings played, 14 earned runs, and 15 hits.

Scoutz off to Labor Day tourney in Guam

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Two teams from Scoutz Youth Baseball left Saipan yesterday to take part in the Inaugural Labor Day Marianas Friendship Baseball Tournament set from Sept. 2 to 5 in Guam.

The Scoutz 1 team is made up of Noah Agoun, Kaipo Dikito, Bing Nakamura, Ried Teregeyo, Chris Pangelinan, Angelo Igitol, Kide Blanco, I.J. Iguel, Antonio Norita, Charlie McDonald, Keahi, Terrell Rabago, and Justin Camacho.

The Scoutz 2 squad includes Forest Pangelinan, Jarrod Muna, Jylon Sablan,



Scoutz Youth Baseball players pose with their coaches and team manager Jerome Delos Santos at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport yesterday before catching a flight to Guam.

Delos Santos conceded that Guam may have the edge in experience, but Team Scoutz will continue to grind and play with passion every game.

"The Guam teams have been playing many seasons, so these boys have good competition. But I am very confident in my team and every player's capability on the field. We are going to go to Guam to play our very best and to show what my Scoutz U18 team has to offer," he said.

Scoutz Youth Baseball would like to thank the following sponsors for making their trip to Guam possible:

Marcia Ayuyu of McDonald's, Johnny's Bar and Grill, Last Shot Bar, Belau Amateur Softball Association, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, Rep. Joel Camacho, Sen. Vinnie Sablan, House Speaker Edmund Villagomez, and Mr. and Mrs. Lenette and Ross Sablan.

King Evangelista, Justin Magofna, Joel DeLeon Guerrero, Dizzle Diaz, Johnny Diaz, Joel Borja, Jason Reyes, and Jesse Norita.

Both teams' coaches are Ben Leon Guerrero and Peter Camacho.

Jerome Delos Santos, who is serving as team manager, said he expects both Scoutz teams to represent the CNMI with pride and humbleness and to play to the best of their abilities.

"Win or lose we'll always do our best. These kids worked very hard to get to this point and I'm honored to be coaching these amazing teams. These kids are ready to play and showcase their skills after four years of not being able to play baseball. They are so excited to step on the diamond again."



Delos Santos also thanked the parents of the players and Scoutz Youth Baseball board members David Attao, Beverley Camacho, Lani Diaz, and Carmen Sablan.

"I also would like to thank gold medalist, Shane Yamada, and his family for stopping by the airport to show love and support and also for their kind donations. Team Scoutz appreciates you and your family...Thank you to everyone else who has supported the Scoutz organization," he said.

Nissan Kicks is hole-in-one for HANMI golf

HANMI Perennial tournament sponsor Joeten Motors is offering a 2022 Nissan Kicks as a hole-in-one prize at the 20th Annual HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament on Sept. 17, 2022, at Laolao Bay Golf & Resort. The prize awaits one lucky golfer in hole No. 17 of the resort's west course.

"Joeten Motors is pleased to continue to sponsor the HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament and our Marianas sports community with this prize offering," said Joeten Motors general manager Matthew Deets, in announcing the sponsorship.

The Nissan Kicks is noted as best-in-class in fuel economy according to automotive marketing research and product-consulting firm AutoPacific.

This Saturday, Sept. 3, at 5pm is the last chance to avail of early bird registration rates for the tournament. Registration is now being accepted at only Laolao Bay Golf & Resort due to limited slots available. Registration is \$120



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Joeten Motors general manager Matthew Deets, second right, presents a 2022 Nissan Kicks on Aug. 31, 2022, in San Jose, Saipan, as a hole-in-one prize for the 20th Annual HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament to be held on Sept. 17, 2022, at Laolao Bay Golf & Resort. From left, tournament committee chair Juko Ishikawa, Joeten Motors Operations manager Peter Tenorio, and Sales manager Ray Alvarez, tournament committee member Tony Satur, Deets, and tournament committee member Max Concepcion.

through the early bird deadline and \$140 after, awards luncheon included. Registration forms are available at www.saipanhoteles.org, www.facebook.com/HANMI670, and at Laolao Bay Golf & Resort. For an additional \$30 players may also compete for optional

play prizes, including longest drive (male and female), accurate drive, aggressive drive, and four chances for nearest to the pin. The tournament is open to the first 144 paid registrants.

Showtime on tournament day is 6am and the tournament

will start at 7am. The awards banquet will immediately follow the tournament at Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

For more information, contact tournament chair Juko Ishikawa at worldresort@pticom.com or visit www.facebook.com/HANMI670. (PR)

we wanted to give back to our community. Softball has been a dominant and popular sport here and we're keeping that alive. I also wanted to introduce and make cornhole another sport that could be competitive to play in this tournament."

"Whether a beginner or amateur or even a professional in softball, this tournament brings out the best we have here on Saipan. Players get to experience the competition and motivate others to become better in the sport. It brings the family together and builds stronger bonds between teams. Even the team with all beginners in the sport could win this tournament due to the rela-

tionship that the team holds. It's not about the best, it's the bond you have with your fellow teammates. I encourage future players to try it out. Join and experience the competition. This event will be annually, so prepare now. It's never too late. As for the fans, come out and watch live entertainment brought to you by CNMI's finest baseball and softball players," said Masayos.

The official sponsors for the event are ROIL SOIL, MARPAC Inc., All-Star Sporting Goods, Marianas Variety, and Hawaiian Rock.

For more information, contact Byron Kaipat at (670) 285-6213 or Ikluk Masayos at (670) 287-7979.

King of the Diamond returns

By LEIGH GASES
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CORRESPONDENT

The 2nd Annual King of the Diamond Labor Day Softball Tournament returned with its first night of games played at the Capital Hill Ball Field last night.

A total 14 teams are currently registered in the tournament, led by defending champion KLIQ.

Last night and tonight's games are scheduled for 6pm, 7pm, 8pm, and 9pm.

On Saturday and Sunday, games will start at 10am. On Sunday, the game will be fol-



lowed by a home run derby at 2pm, and end the tournament with the finals.

There will also be a corn-hole tournament.

Prizes for the top softball team are \$1,000, \$750 for second place, \$500 for third place, and \$350 for fourth place.

Ikluk T. Masayos, who is the commissioner of the event along with Shayne Villanueva, said that he "expect[s] the community of softball players and fans to enjoy competitive softball tournament entertainment. The reason for the prize money is that

it's not about the best, it's the bond you have with your fellow teammates. I encourage future players to try it out. Join and experience the competition. This event will be annually, so prepare now. It's never too late. As for the fans, come out and watch live entertainment brought to you by CNMI's finest baseball and softball players," said Masayos.

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Hot Shots shoot past 670 Babes, 11-10

By LEIGH GASES
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CORRESPONDENT

Hot Shots rallied in the final innings to beat 670 Babes, 11-10, last Sunday in the 2022 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball League at the Dandan Softball Field.

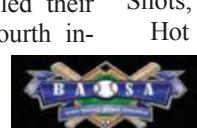
670 Babes spoiled their 7-0 lead in the fourth inning when the Hot Shots found their footing and awakened from their slumber to lumber up two runs in the fourth inning and four runs in the fifth to catch up, 7-6.

However, the Hot Shots pitcher silenced 670 Babes in the fifth and sixth inning and gave her offense a chance to creep up in the decisive last innings.

670 Babes and Hot Shots' pitchers had six strikeouts each and although impressive, it was the Hot Shots' offense that

rallied in the end.

By this time in the sixth inning, the Hot Shots popped off five more runs to give themselves a comfortable lead of 11-7. 670 Babes put up a last-ditch effort but welled up only five runs—one run short to succumb to the Hot Shots, 11-10.



Hot Shots' Ashlei Aguon brought the most runs in with three, followed by Brit Lizama, then one apiece for Becky Repeki, Janica Lizama, Janine Celis, and Ann Juliet Lifoifoi.

Tiah Camacho of the 670 Babes conjured three RBIs and one triple, while Lizann Deleon Guerrero came up with two RBI's, and Catalina Dela Cruz, Julie Palacios, and Edilynn Benjamin had an RBI apiece.

This game brought the Hot Shots at 2-2 and 670 Babes at 1-3 in the standings.



Lux helps Dodgers edge Mets in matchup of division leaders
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Scout off to Labor Day tourney in Guam

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Champi wins 4th straight in Veterans Class



MICHAEL JORNAL
Lenard "Champi" Villacanas is being chased by Trench Tech Racing teammates Dave Celis, left, and Cuki Alvarez in the Veterans Class of last Sunday's 2022 Monster Energy Point Series Race.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Lenard "Champi" Villacanas may just have secured the No. 1 plate in the Veterans Class for the 2022 Monster Energy Point Series Race. This, after the 41-year-old heavy equipment operator at Construction Materials Supply won his fourth straight monthly race last Sunday at the Cowtown Race Track.

Aboard his trusty 2022 Yamaha YZF450, Villacanas finished first in the initial heat and second in the final heat to finish with 47 points.

He barely beat Trench Tech Racing teammate Cuki Alvarez, who came in

third in the first heat before topping the second heat for 45 points. Trench Tech Racing actually swept the podium in the Veterans Class for the August race as Dave Celis rounded out third with 42 points.

See CHAMPI on Page 22

Swimmers debut in Junior World Champs

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Jinie Thompson and Savita Sikkal finally plunged into the pool in the 2022 FINA Junior World Championships in Lima, Peru.

National coach Richard Sikkel said Thompson was able to record a personal best in the 100m freestyle yesterday after the duo battled an early start on the first day of competition a day prior.

Thompson's 1:09 in the 100m freestyle eclipsed her previous record.

"I'm glad that I dropped nearly a second in my 100m freestyle with the time of 1:09. It goes to show what just a month of consistent training can do. I hope to break this recent PB soon as well," she said.

Savita, meanwhile, was disqualified in the same event af-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
CNMI national swimmers Jinie Thompson, left, and Savita Sikkal take a photo before plunging into the pool in Day 2 of the 2022 FINA Junior World Championships in Lima, Peru.

ter making a bad turn. Coach Sikkel said Thompson's PB somehow made up for the CNMI swimmers' struggles in Day 1 of the Junior World Championships where Thompson completed the 100m backstroke in 1:24 and Savita in 1:26.

"Tough day after a delayed arrival last night. Very early start this morning to get some backstroke practice in. Starts and races weren't perfect, but they have the first race under their belt. Pool facility is nice, fairly new. Food and hotels are good and plentiful," he said.

Despite the relatively slow times, Thompson and Savita's 100m backstroke times still counted as their personal bests.

"They haven't swam an official 100m back in ages, so these are new PBs, but both are capable of swimming faster times though," said

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Queens reign supreme in 5 categories

By LEIGH GASES
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CORRESPONDENT

A duo with the same name from the Queens of Diamonds are atop the individual standings of the women's division in the 2022 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association League.

A pair of Kianas top the individual leaderboard as Kiana "Baby K" Camacho and Kiana Aldan, both of the Queens of Diamonds, reign in the most runs scored, doubles, home runs, and RBIs of as of Aug. 21.

Camacho tops the runs

See QUEENS on Page 22



Aldan